

Many Welsh votes are barred in miners' poll after suspected rigging

Some 150,000 miners have voted by 61.5 per cent against 39.5 per cent to the National Coal Board's ballot scheme, which would have given face workers up to a week more, it was learnt yesterday. Votes from about a dozen pits in South Wales have been disqualified. There are certain to be charges of politically motivated "ballot-rigging" against the left, our Labour Editor writes. These could have far-reaching effects within the miners' leadership.

3-2 against board's scheme

Routledge, the Electoral Reform Society says that the votes of a number of branches have been "withheld pending an explanation". The branches involved have had their votes disqualified and an analysis of the votes cast in the ballot shows that most of them must be in South Wales, where the number of valid votes has fallen by half from the February total of 26,901 to 13,340.

Other areas where the vote has fallen include the Scottish craftmen, Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, but this does not necessarily mean that some branches have forfeited their votes in those coalfields.

Apparently the NUM has not been given any reason why the votes of about a dozen pits in South Wales, a left-wing led coalition, should have been disqualified. It is not unusual for some ballot papers to be ruled out of the count because they have been incorrectly filled in, but nothing on that scale has happened before.

Incompetence may be a charitable explanation, but the more likely reason is that some collieries returned more ballot papers than there were miners. Because of the lower turnout, it is difficult to calculate exactly the number of "suspect" votes, but it is likely to run into five figures.

The NUM executive, which is not due to meet until December 12, is almost certain to order an internal inquiry into the disqualifications, and the issue could have far-reaching repercussions within the miners' leadership and in the labour movement generally. It is likely that the NUM will have gone in favour of the left's policy of opposition in any case, for that reason the moderates on the NUM executive will probably not press for it to be re-run.

Leaving aside the disqualified votes, the pithead ballot has been a remarkable success for the militants, only a month ago they were given little chance of persuading the men not to accept the substantial pay increases on offer if the men agreed to local incentives.

In its final form, the coal board scheme proposed up to £12.50 a week for 86,000 face and development workers who produce the coal and 85 per cent of the weekly average productivity bonus earned by the face men for 144,000 other pitmen.

On hearing the ballot result, the coal board said last night: "It is disappointing of course. We were confident that if the scheme had been accepted we would have been able to reach, or at least get very close to, our jointly agreed output objective of 120 million tons in the year ending next March, and also give ourselves a good basis for future expansion."

The board welcomed the NUM's recent reaffirmation of the output pledge, and said there would be talks with all the unions in the industry to discuss "further joint action that is necessary as a springboard for improved output in this and later years".

It is now clear that a jointly agreed productivity deal cannot be envisaged. Even the traditionally moderate Nottinghamshire miners, who stood to gain most from the rejected package, voted only by 53 to 47 per cent to embrace local incentives. And the board has said that a national productivity scheme of the kind the NUM wants will not give the kind of output needed.

Continued on page 2, col 6



Mr Karamanlis waves to supporters after casting his vote in Athens yesterday.

Karamanlis landslide in election

From Mario Modiano Athens, Nov 17

New Democracy, the party of Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, appeared to be headed for a landslide victory in the Greek general elections, the first after seven years of military rule.

The first official returns gave his conservative party 58.3 per cent of votes in 330 of the 12,518 polling stations throughout the country with 41,907 votes out of 71,500.

The Centre Union/New Forces was second with 14,395 votes; the Panhellenic Socialist Party

polled 8,751 votes, and the Communists gained 4,546 votes. The extreme right wing party National Democratic Union (EDE), which protects the friends of the fallen dictatorship, received a mere 1.4 per cent.

More than an election, this was a day of rejoicing for the Greeks. So much so that it almost became irrelevant which party would actually win.

Thousands of Athenians, after voting, went to the Polytechnic as if to say "thank you". It was the Polytechnic revolt—smothered in blood by the Army and the police—exactly one year ago today, that burst open the way to democracy.

The pilgrims tied bouquets of flowers on the railings of the

Polytechnic, each accompanied by a note with a phrase or poem dedicated to at least 18 Greeks killed in the massacre.

"To you who gave what we had no courage to give ourselves," said one handwritten note. A bunch of red carnations signed: "From a father and a mother," carried this message: "To the young ones who gave their blood to rid us of beastly violence."

Inside the Polytechnic, the heavy iron gate warped by the impact of the Army tank which ended the siege lay on the ground where it had collapsed on that eventful night. Today it was covered with floral tributes from pilgrims who sobbed silently as they passed by.

King Constantine of the Greeks, whose future the party will determine next month by referendum, sent this message from his exile in

Britania: "My thoughts today turn with admiration to the heroes of the Polytechnic whose sacrifice opened the road to freedom. I pay devoted homage to the memory of the heroic dead who shall be symbols of sacrifice, human dignity and freedom. We shall not forget!"

The Polytechnic, in a sense, became more relevant today than the elections. Otherwise there was heavy polling in the districts of Athens and Piraeus where more than one-fifth of all six million registered voters reside.

Voting is compulsory under Greek law for all adults up to the age of 70. Some 1,425 candidates are contesting 288 seats in Parliament. Twelve other seats are reserved for the so-called "state deputies" who are nominated from nationwide party lists.

Peart seeks EC help food supplies

Mr. Minister of Agriculture, sets out his most difficult EEC mission so far. He is trying to persuade the other Community members to take action to safeguard supplies of sugar, beef, butter and his main task in Brussels will be to agree on what terms to offer sugar countries of the developing world for ports of 1,400,000 tons of cane sugar.

Attack on Rolls-Royce 'hardly', MP says

Criticized the Government yesterday for its "cowardly attack" on Rolls-Royce in an invidious position. If his executors, one of whom is Mr Foot, tried the Government, and the Attorney General went to court to enforce its decision, the strike had paralysed the firm's spare-parts factories.

Drama over diaries

Over publication of Mr Crossman's diaries, Mr Foot, Secretary of State for the Home Office, has taken a hard line. He has said that if his executors, one of whom is Mr Foot, tried the Government, and the Attorney General went to court to enforce its decision, the strike had paralysed the firm's spare-parts factories.

Steel price plea

Of a record first-half profit of £82m British Steel Corporation will tell the House of Commons that it is asking for a 25 per cent rise in the price of steel. The higher charges will be needed to cover the corporation's declining production of steel still has to maintain its 10-year development programme.

Arts, page 12

On taking politics out of the arts, Mr Francis Pym, the secretary-general of the Landowners Association, has called for freedom of the press from the Institute of Arts and Mr Leon Res.

Business News, pages 19-24

Financial Editor following the Budget; demand becomes the worry among engineering companies.

Banker's Kuwait visit

The weekend visit to Kuwait by Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, was not the result of Mr Healey's decision to allow the present sterling guarantee arrangements to lapse at the end of the year, a Bank spokesman said yesterday. The trip had been arranged weeks ago.

Independence rejected

Racial divisions in South Africa deepened when leaders of eight African homelands decided to reject at this stage the Government's concept of independent Bantustans and Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, ruled out one man, one vote representation in a single parliament.

Irish presidency

Irish leaders in the Irish Republic are expected to meet this week to agree on a candidate for the presidency to succeed Mr Childers, who died early yesterday.

Pledge to the hungry

The world food conference ended in Rome with the nations pledged to ensure that "within a decade no child will fail to get his next day's bread".

Tenants' progress

Powerful private residents' group told that new Act greatly strengthens their rights in struggle with landlords.

Dining out

Egon Romay's new Dunlop Guide, published today, lists the highs and lows of British cuisine.

Cabinet in strategy talks at Chequers

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff

Cabinet ministers spent more than six hours at Chequers yesterday discussing long-term strategy, particularly the economic difficulties facing the country.

They discussed inflation, unemployment and investment, they also made assessments of the likely impact of Mr Healey's recent Budget statement and the one he is expected to make in the coming weeks.

The ministers also discussed what was described as "Britain and the external world". That, apparently, included Europe.

It was stated yesterday that there was no concentration on the European Community and the results so far of the negotiations being conducted by Mr Callaghan, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and his colleagues.

Mr Ford leaves for Far East

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Nov 17

President Ford set off to the Far East this morning, saying that he would rather travel a thousand miles for peace than take a single step for war. The Soviet Ambassador gave him a big brown fur hat to keep him warm at Vladivostok and a group of Scouts cheered him loudly in the rain.

Threat of a new Middle East war recedes

From Paul Martin Beirut, Nov 17

The threat of an imminent Middle East war receded today after a major tense 48 hours of military brinkmanship since the October 1973 war. However, the armies of Israel and Syria remained on alert along the Golan Heights front, the focal point of renewed tension in the area.

IRA threat to intensify bomb campaign in Britain

The Provisional IRA will increase its violence campaign in Britain, David O'Connell, the self-styled chief of staff, said in a television interview yesterday.

He declared on commercial television's Weekend World that the only condition for a cessation would be a statement of the British Government's intent to withdraw its troops from Northern Ireland.

"The British Government and the British people must realize that because of the terror waged by the troops in Ireland they must suffer the consequences," he said.

He said that military, judicial and other targets were liable to attack. "The responsibility rests fairly and squarely with the British Government. The situation could be changed overnight if they said: 'We are not going to stay in Northern Ireland.'" The British Government held the key to peace or war.

Two detectives suspended

Two Scotland Yard detectives have been suspended from duty on full pay pending an investigation into allegations that they demanded £1,500 from a man on a criminal charge, it was disclosed yesterday.

Toxic gas in ship 'was not listed'

By Stewart Tendler

A government investigation is to be held into how a dangerous chemical gas in the cargo of a British ship lying off the Cornish coast leaked and why it was not on a list of dangerous substances in the ship or on the manifest.

Four crew members were flown ashore by helicopter from the Asia Freighter on Friday. Yesterday another 10, including the master, were taken to hospital for tests.

Physicists excited over new particle

Stanford, California, Nov. 17.—American physicists yesterday announced the discovery of a new kind of elementary particle—a basic constituent of all matter—with hitherto unknown properties.

The discovery was made independently by scientific teams at Stanford University's linear accelerator centre and the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York.

In an announcement made simultaneously by both laboratories, Mr Burton Richter, of the Stanford team, and Mr Samuel C. Ting, of the Brookhaven team, said: "The suddenness of the discovery, coupled with the totally unexpected properties of the particle are what make it so exciting. It is not like the particles we know and must have some new kind of structure."

The researchers said that they did not yet fully understand the discovery but it might fill in some spaces in the physical knowledge of the universe. "The discovery is abstract. We do not know what it means," they said. Theorists were "working frantically" to fit the discovery into the framework of present knowledge.

Elementary particles, so small that they cannot be seen under a microscope, make up all matter and energy. It has long been known that atoms are composed of three fundamental, or elementary, particles—the protons and neutrons, and the electrons circling them somewhat like the planets orbiting the sun.

The new particle, which has been given the name Psi, is said to have hitherto unknown properties. According to Mr Richter, the Psi particle is "different from all the other particles we know. It lives 100,000 times longer than any other particle, and therefore must have a new kind of structure of holding it together."

One physicist said the existence of the particle may eventually explain many discrepancies in fundamental physical theories. Another scientist said: "This is one of the biggest discoveries in years anywhere in the world."

Both the Stanford and Brookhaven groups said the new particle occurred at an energy of just over three billion electron volts. They said the particle decays into other heavy particles, called hadrons or leptons, in one hundred billionth of a billionth of a second. On a nuclear time scale this is a remarkably long life.

Both laboratories made their discoveries while conducting research for the United States Atomic Energy Commission—AP and UPI.

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HOME NEWS

Government attacked for condemning Rolls-Royce pay rise

The Government's "cowardly, dishonest and despicable attack" on Rolls-Royce over its 53-a-week payment to 6,000 Scottish workers, announced on Friday, was condemned yesterday by Mr Peter Rost, MP. He said he was submitting a private notice question in the House of Commons today over what he described as the Government's hypocritical behaviour...

NUJ chief denies censorship charge

By a Staff Reporter Mr Kenneth Morgan, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, said last night in London that the union was concerned at "continued misrepresentation" of its position over its dispute with the Newspaper Society, the organization of provincial and suburban employers...

Tenants' group told of progress in struggle

By a Staff Reporter An important engagement in the struggle between landlords and tenants took place on Saturday. The Conference of Private Residents Associations, (COPRA), the alliance of residents' and tenants' associations in the private sector that has coalesced into a large and formidable organization in the past three years, held a conference in London...

DEATHS

McDade - Lieutenant James Patrick, died on active service. Proudly remembered by Command Staff, Officers and Personnel, England. At home in Coventry on Thursday. Aged 34.

Talks this week on new Eire President

By Robert Fisk The leaders of the three or four political parties in the Irish Republic are expected to meet this week to try to find an agreed nominee for President of the Republic of Ireland after the death early yesterday of Mr Eirinne Childers...

Death notices in Saturday's Irish News in memory of James McDade, who was killed by his own bomb at Coventry on Thursday. Obituary, page 18

Intensive security jail planned in Ulster

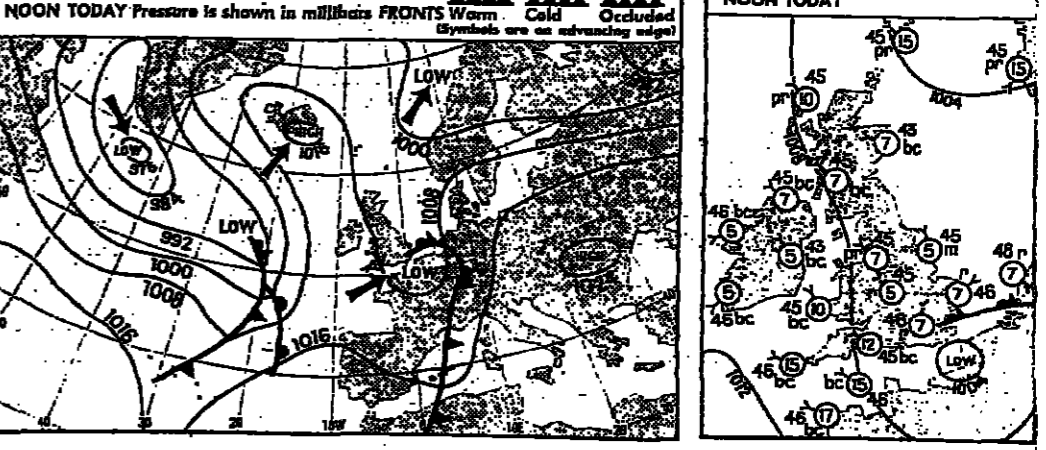
From Christopher Walker Belfast Plans for a large intensive security prison in Northern Ireland will be announced this week by Mr Rees, the Secretary of State. Urgent among prisoners and their relatives has been troubling the authorities and urgent attempts have been made to complete details of the new prison...

Welsh votes barred in miners' poll

When the coal board meets national officials of the NUM tomorrow, ostensibly to talk about NCB "interference" in the ballot, it will almost certainly pave the way for interim pay talks aimed at securing peace in the pits for the time being with an all-round increase for 250,000 miners...

Table with 5 columns: COALFIELD, YES, % in favour, NO, Total Valid, Feb ballot. Lists various coalfields like Coleraine, Cumberland, Durham, etc.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today Sun rises: 7.23 am, 4.8 pm. Moon rises: 11.11 am, 8.6 pm. First quarter: November 21. Lighting up: 4.38 pm to 6.55 am. High water: London Bridge 4.0 am, 6.9 pm (22.6ft); 4.26 pm, 7.0 am (22.9ft)...

Table with 4 columns: City, C, F, City, C, F. Lists cities like Algiers, Amsterdam, Athens, etc.

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Talkome News

Storm over Crossman diary creates dilemma for Mr Foot

Michael Hatfield... storm that has arisen... publication of the con-

would arise if two Cabinet ministers found themselves on opposite sides in a case before the courts.

Egon Ronay's guide lists 200 London restaurants where £5.50 buys a good meal for two

The peaks and troughs of British fare

By Philip Howard... Egon Ronay, the arbiter of gastronomic elegance with the digestion of an ostrich, makes a concession to inflation of the financial kind today.

the depths, this year exploring the catering provided at Heathrow and Gatwick airports. The only possible moral to be drawn from its exploration is that anybody who has to fly from London should either take sandwiches or go hungry.



Some of 8,000 Jewish ex-Servicemen who marched in their remembrance parade in Whitehall yesterday.

Solicitors oppose levy on self-employed

A proposed levy on the self-employed would be followed by more measures until all self-employed people were removed, a conference at Leamington Spa of the British Legal Association, a solicitors' ginger group, was told yesterday.

Police criticized over tactics at demonstrations

The National Council for Civil Liberties has complained that tactics of the Special Patrol Unit of the Metropolitan Police cause confusion and confusion.

Risk of heavy unemployment, Tory says

The level of unemployment by this time next year would depend more than anything else on the size of pay settlements in the next few months, Mr Robert Carr, Opposition spokesman on Treasury Affairs, said on Saturday.

148 people died last year while bathing

By a Staff Reporter... A small boy fell into a bucket of water up to his shoulders and could not get out, and another fell into a water holder while concrete was being mixed.

Social services 'ignoring' elderly black people

By Pat Healy... Social Services Correspondent... Local authorities should give money to local black groups to enable them to supply 'curry on wheels' and other social services to elderly immigrants.

Transfusion girl dies

Angela Watson, aged six, who was given a bone marrow transfusion two months ago, died from heart failure in Middlesbrough hospital on Saturday.

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- Western Europe: J. Willemsse - Antwerp, Sertra S.A. - Brussels, B. M. Snijers - Heppen, Soc. Tecnica de Equipamentos - Lisbon, Baumaschinen - Heidelberg, Baumaschinen Schäfer GmbH - Saarbrücken, Fritz Fuchs - Dortmund, Gerke & Scheuch - Kassel, Theisen K.G. - Nuremberg, Strangford Limited - Ireland, Short Bros. (plant) Limited - South Wales. Eastern Europe: Pragoinvest - Prague, Bumar - Warsaw, Balkanija - Belgrade, Mecanoeexportimport - Bucharest. International: Mohamed Abdurrahman Al-Bahar - Gulf States and Saudi Arabia, R. Chami - Egypt, Arabic Contracting and Trading - Syria, Elmocan Engineering Enterprises Limited - Pakistan, United Motor Works (S) Pte. Limited - Singapore, Brunei and Indonesia, United Motors Works (M) Sdn. Berhad - Malaysia.



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HOME NEWS

Continued growth in wealth an illusion, Lord Avebury says

By Our Political Staff
A strong attack on British politicians, trade unionists and industrialists for propagating the "illusion that there can be an everlasting growth in wealth and incomes" was made by Lord Avebury, the Liberal peer, in his presidential address to the Conservation Society in Edinburgh yesterday.

It was inevitable, Lord Avebury said, that industrial growth was a mathematical impossibility. Modest growth of 3 per cent was not plausible from the point of view of energy implications alone.

Garage men plan to march over petrol price

By Roger Vialvoys
The owners of thousands of garage breakdown trucks from all over Britain are threatening to converge with them on Parliament within the next two weeks unless the Government concedes higher profit margins for petrol retailers.

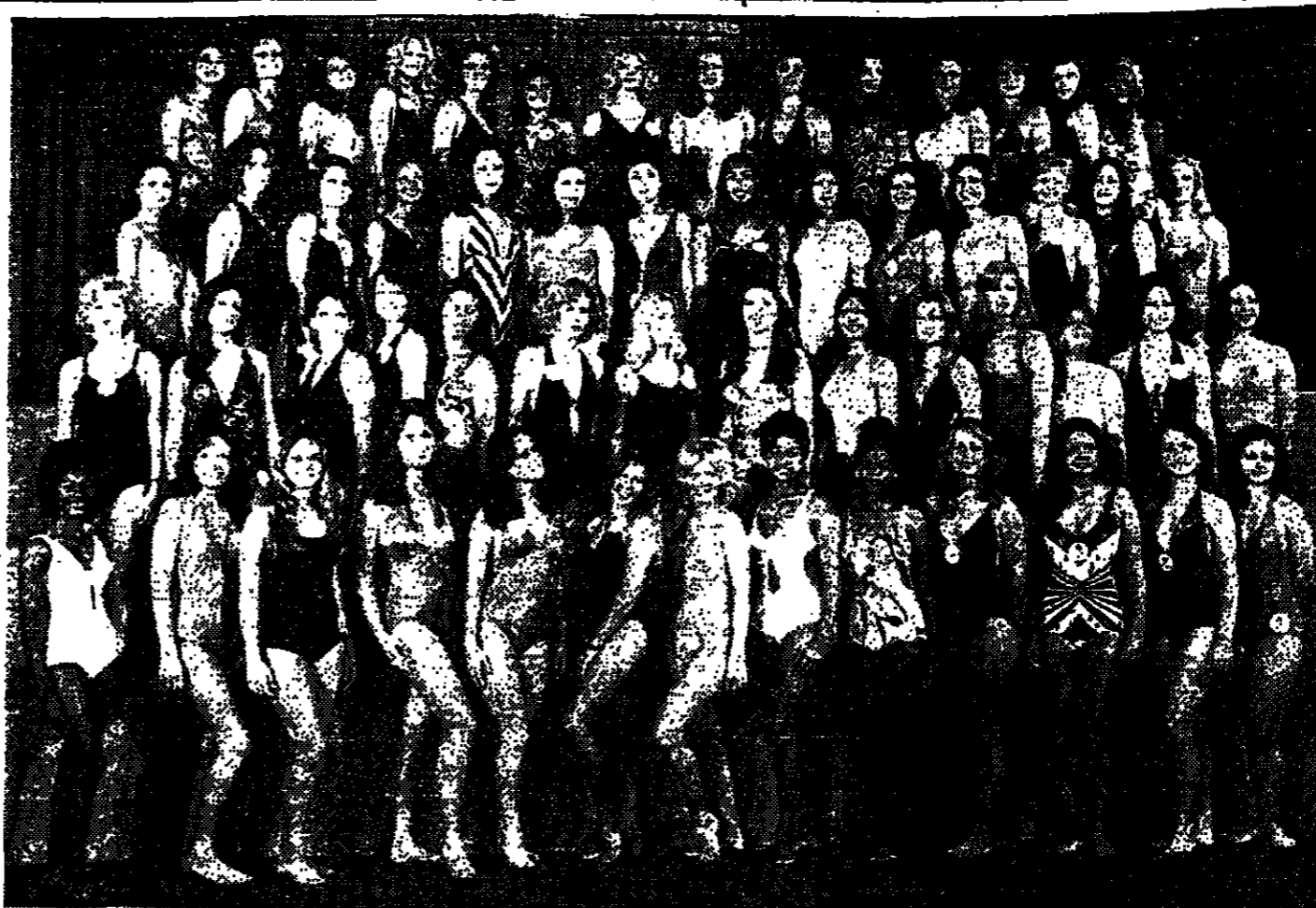
Ramblers oppose Peak Park quarry scheme

If ICI proposals to quarry limestone from 280 acres near Tunstead, in the Peak District National Park, were permitted the door would be opened to large-scale quarrying in national parks.

Protest to Mr Benn on end of EEC Welsh surveys

Mr Dafydd Thomas, Plaid Cymru MP for Merioneth and the party's European spokesman, is to protest in the House of Commons this week over the decision by Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, to stop three studies by the European Community Commission into the industrial and regional needs of South Wales.

Wales should get the full benefit of the Community's regional policy. Threatened steel closures still hanging over South Wales needed to be fully investigated and if support from a European Community study of the social consequences of closure could be obtained, it would be a major argument against running down the steel industry.



Contestants for the Miss World title, to be judged at the Albert Hall on Friday, photographed at the Empire Theatre, Leicester Square, yesterday.

School hope for new children at Newham

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent
Places may be found by the end of next week for most of the 130 children waiting to go to secondary schools in the London borough of Newham. But Dr Scott Wilkie, the borough's director of education, told me yesterday that the shortage would never be overcome until teachers were prepared to take secondary school classes of more than 30 children.

Parole Board 'wrong to consider man's job prospect'

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent
The Parole Board is wrong when considering parole for a prisoner to consider whether the man has a job to go to, or even whether his employment prospects are good, states a report published yesterday by the Apex Trust, the employment agency for former prisoners backed by the Home Office.

The requirement that a man should lead an industrious life should be deleted from the parole licence. The present system causes men to panic about their employment prospects and creates tremendous difficulties for organizations trying to find work for former prisoners.

Each parole applicant should be informed of the result of his application three months before his eligibility date. Where three months' notification of parole is given, the man should be offered every opportunity to approach anyone likely to be able to find him a job, especially agencies like the trust and the Department of Employment.

Employment and Parole, by Keith Soothill and Freddie Penney (Apex Charitable Trust, 9 Poland Street, London, W1V 3DG. 40p post free).

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In South Africa, new business opportunities are developing as fast as our industry.

Nowadays South Africa offers more than just a vast market for the British businessman. Our industry has grown at an ever increasing rate, founded not only on gold and diamonds, but soundly based on heavy manufacturing of all types.

3. Another hydro-electric scheme even larger than the Cabora Bassa is under consideration. The project will be based on the Tugela, Natal's biggest river, and preliminary estimates indicate that it will cost more than £313 million.

expected to be in operation towards the end of 1976. We're still backing Britain. Already British enterprise, has played a major role in our development. It's estimated that of all direct investment in South Africa by foreign companies, UK capital and technical know-how represent 60 per cent of the total.

A brief picture of South African Industry. "South Africa is on the eve of a golden new era of economic developments and achievements."

7. A 500 mile rail link, costing £125 million, is being built from Sishen in the northern Cape Province to Saldanha Bay, north of Cape Town, for the export of iron ore and semi-manufactured iron and steel products.

With our lack of restrictions on the export of profits and dividends, this directly helps the British economy. Hence the sight of a booming South African economy is good news to any British businessman.

The South African government has created, and will continue to create, a sympathetic climate for growth and expansion in all areas of industry.

8. Extra rail capacity is being developed for the export of coal from the Witbank area in the eastern Transvaal through Richards Bay on the Natal Coast, the cost of which will be around £104 million.

With a rigid control over the quality of goods enforced by the South African Bureau of Standards, our exports to you are finding themselves welcomed. (And in many cases, the goods we send you have been manufactured by companies in which British enterprise has a substantial stake).

The future too looks promising. Our policy is to create a nucleus in Southern Africa of independent states, to form a stable economic bloc in which each individual economy may grow unhindered by artificial restraints.

9. Richards Bay is an area undergoing intensive development. A new harbour complex is under construction to include bulk handling facilities for coal and other raw exports, an oil refinery, an ethylene cracker and other petro-chemical plants.

Here too the British businessman will find opportunities for new expansion. SAIDCOR, the government research development corporation, is already seeing encouraging results from its finance and research and development of new ideas.

Already, we are in a customs and monetary union with Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland, which holds great promise for the next 10 years. With the Transkei homeland already negotiating for independence, self-determination for the Bantu homelands is peacefully progressing.

10. Similar new harbour work is being done at Saldanha Bay where expenditure on berths and bulk handling is estimated at around £44 million. Two dry docks, able to accommodate vessels up to 500,000 tons are also planned.

What is needed is further investment by your companies in this rich field. We continue to welcome increased co-operation between UK companies and SA enterprises in all fields of industrial activity.

This will create further investment opportunities for British business. The Bantu Investment Corporation and the Xhosa Development Corporation can provide expert knowledge and useful assistance to prospective investors.

11. ISCOR, the national steel corporation, has developments in hand costing about £813 million. This involves extensions to its three existing steel works.

Thus, as the sun shines on our Game Reserves and our beaches, it shines also on the businessman looking for new contributions to his profitability. If you want to import from South Africa; if you want to discuss joint ventures in the Republic; if you want information about investment opportunities, please write to:

A massive investment in the future. Any survey of South African industry will illustrate our growth. To give some idea of the scale of our faith in the future, the following investments by the South African government are currently in hand.

12. In addition, a new steel complex is going up in the Saldanha Bay area costing £375 million.

THE MINISTER (COMMERCIAL) SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY, TRAFALGAR SQUARE, LONDON WC2N 5DP TELEPHONE 01-930 4488.



Oxfam in deficit over appeal for Indian aid

By a Staff Reporter
Oxfam has gone into deficit for the first time, in an attempt to meet the call for help from India. Yesterday the organization announced an appeal for £50,000 to meet the commitment.

Polytechnic students plan 'disruption' on grants claim

By Stephen Cohen
The Times Educational Supplement
Leaders of 90,000 students at Britain's 30 polytechnics voted yesterday to demand grants of £850 a year, and to adopt a policy of "cost disruption" if the Government failed to meet the claim by next February.

Factory 'trial' union man gets new post

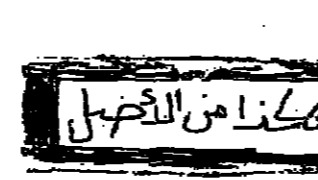
One of the central figures in the controversial trial union plan to put a factory manager "on trial" at Newtown, Powys, last week is moving to a new union post in South Wales. Mr John Cooke, Transport and General Workers' Union central Wales officer, based at Newtown, stated at the weekend that he has been appointed district secretary for the Cardiff area.

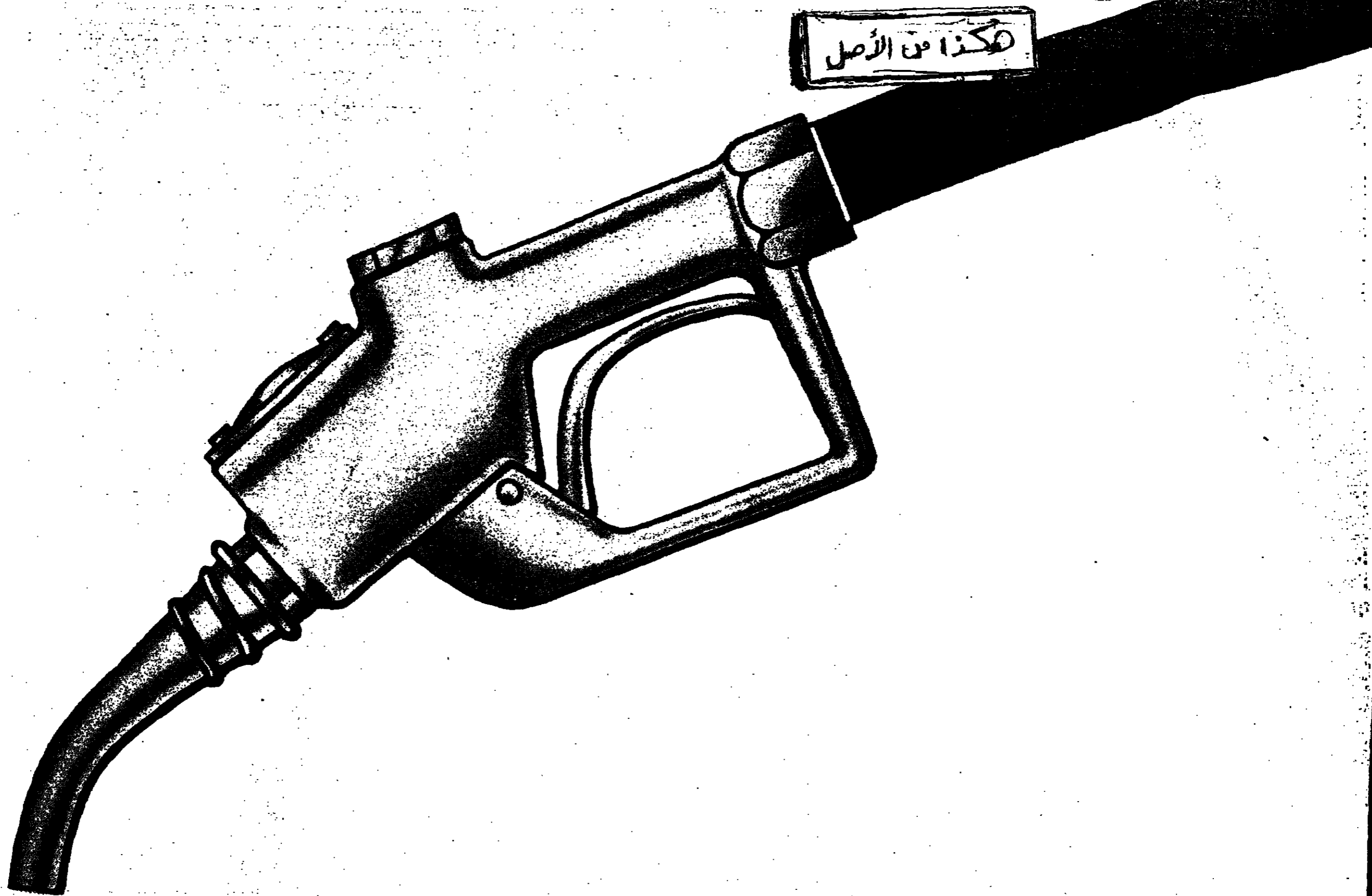
High costs stop children from learning to cook

Rising costs were forcing more children to opt out of school cookery lessons, Miss Pat Pickles, president of the Association of Teachers of Domestic Science and deputy headmistress of Burnt Mill Comprehensive School, Harlow, Essex, said yesterday. Six months ago some teachers were paying £1 a week from their own pockets to enable poor children to take cookery classes, she said. The figure had since doubled.

Unlike Welsh Indians and whisky, Radio Cymru will be one dream come true

Regional report
Trevor Fishlock Cardiff
It has always been much harder for Welshmen to realize their dreams than Englishmen. More Englishmen have been born with silver spoons in their mouths than Welshmen who, on the whole, have had to make do with wooden spoons. Not that Welshmen have lacked ambition with their dreams. A man nicknamed Bob Hydraulic once worked out a scheme to construct an enormous cantilevered hydraulic moon over Holyhead harbour for the delight of visitors. The scheme, however, did not get off the ground.





How to get more out of it, without paying more for it.

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mpg at constant road speed		mpg at 30 mph	mpg at 40 mph	mpg at 50 mph	mpg at 60 mph	mpg at 70 mph
MINI* 1000		61.0	53.5	46.5	39.0	30.5
ALLEGRO 1500		52.0	49.0	44.0	37.5	32.0
MAXI 1750		47.5	45.0	41.0	35.5	30.0
MARINA 1.8		52.0	48.0	41.5	35.0	30.5

Figures by courtesy of Motor. *Mini is a Registered Trade Mark of British Leyland.

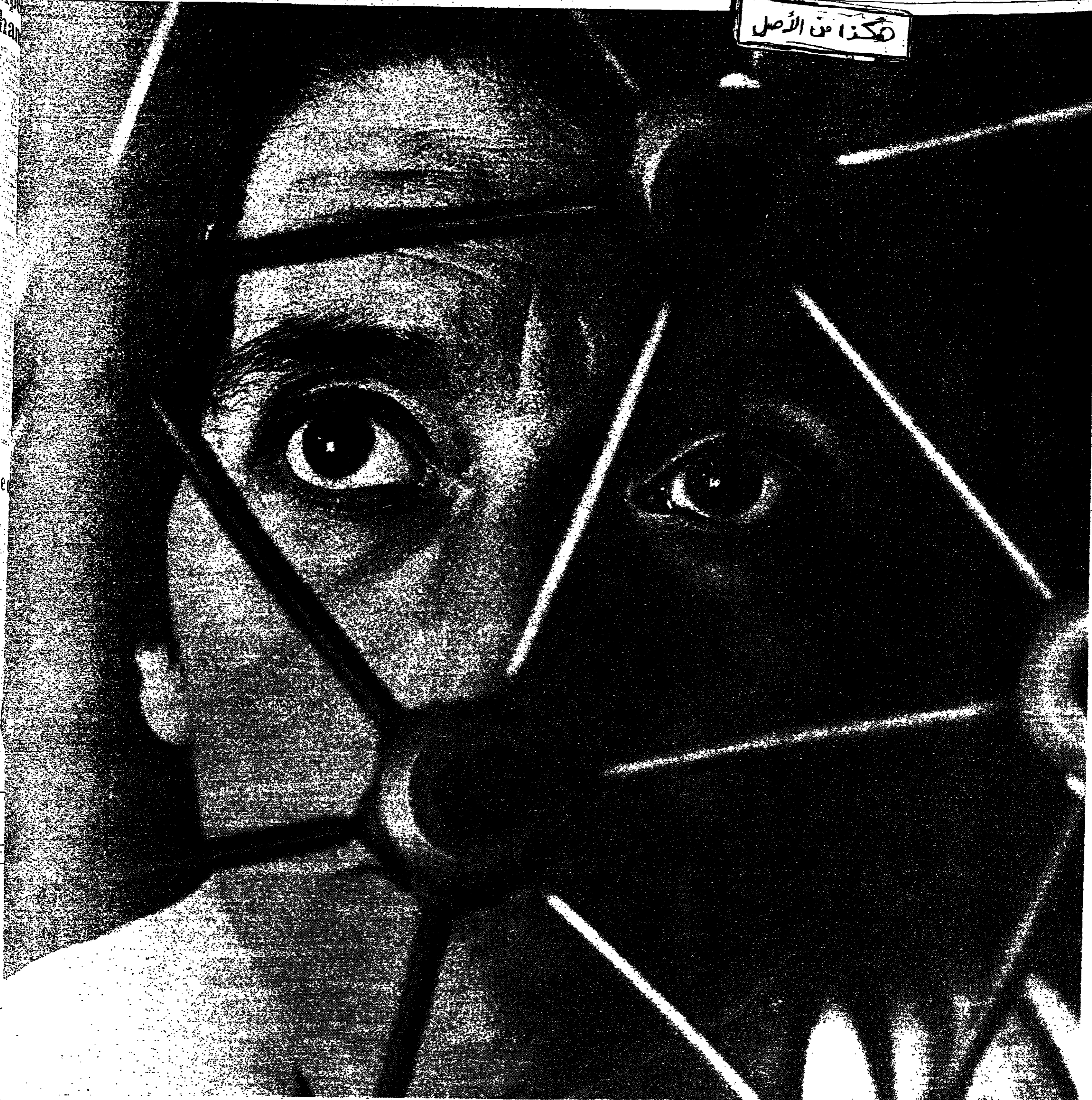


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OVERSEAS

Pravda lashes policy of the West as summit draws near

From Edmund Stevens Moscow, Nov 17

A cautious key approach is taken in Soviet comment as the Ford-Brezhnev summit nears. The senior Pravda commentator, Victor Mayevsky, set the tone by saying that the Soviet people hope the meetings next weekend will serve the further development of United States-Soviet relations to the benefit of both peoples and the entire world.

Having voiced this hope without elaboration, Mr Mayevsky, himself a cold war veteran, complains that every day confirms that influential circles in the West favour a resumption of the cold war.

Aggressive Nato activities in the Mediterranean, he complains, have encouraged a "concern" talk in Tel Aviv and in part of the American press about preparations for a fifth war against the Arabs.

Mr Mayevsky praises Mr Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, for presenting "a constructive programme for the solution of the Palestinian problem based on justice, peace and democracy and providing for fulfilment of the Palestinian Arabs' right to self-determination and return to their native soil."

He adds somewhat ambiguously that the Soviet Union favours a just solution that will take account of the interests of all nations and people in the Middle East—without, however, specifically mentioning Israel in this context.

He goes on to accuse the United States of rushing additional supplies of tanks, aircraft and other military equipment to Israel, adding that the "ultra-

reactionary" newspaper New York Daily News demands that Israel be regarded as sacred as a fifty-first state of the United States.

Turning to the energy crisis, Mr Mayevsky reports that some American publications are openly discussing the possibility of military intervention against the oil producing countries to avert another oil embargo, and that American policy now advocates a "holy alliance" with Western Europe and Japan in order to bring the oil producing countries to their knees.

Mr Mayevsky ends on an almost gleeful note about the worsening economic condition in capitalist countries, which he said has intensified the class struggle with large-scale strikes and mass demonstrations in various parts of the United States, Britain, France and Japan.

On the eve of President Ford's arrival in Tokyo, Pravda takes a sombre view of his prospects, saying that the opposition to the present administration is making the most of anti-American sentiment and taking advantage of the sensational declaration by the retired American Admiral Laroque on the secret delivery of nuclear weapons to Japan by United States warships. This, Pravda says, will considerably cloud prospects of the visit. More than 160,000 police had therefore been mobilized to protect the President, whose visit would be confined to heavily guarded indoor meetings with no public appearances.

Pravda does not add that no such drastic security measures for President Ford's protection will be needed when he visits the Vladivostok area a few days later for his meeting with Mr Brezhnev.

Vladivostok will be relief after Japan

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Nov 17

Mr Leonid Brezhnev visited the United States in June, 1973, and the Senate Watergate committee very considerably went into recess for a week. It was thought tactful to prevent Mr John Dean from upstaging the Soviet party leader.

Mr Brezhnev kindly overlooked the fact that the presidency of Mr Richard Nixon was disintegrating, and a series of minor but useful agreements were reached by the two sides. Mr Ford is now faced with much the same problem in Tokyo.

The President's visit to Japan has been planned for months [the Japanese originally, and unenthusiastically, expected his predecessor] and is designed to undo all the damage to American-Japanese relations caused by the sudden announcement in 1971 that Mr Nixon intended to visit Peking.

Mr Ford and Dr Henry Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, will do their best to carry out their plans, despite the disintegration of the Tanaka Government. The circumstances ensure that the President's visit to Vladivostok will be considerably more comfortable than his visit to Tokyo, and probably more productive.

The President is firmly of the belief that serious negotiations, with Americans or with foreigners, friends or adversaries, are best conducted if the participants can first establish a human contact.

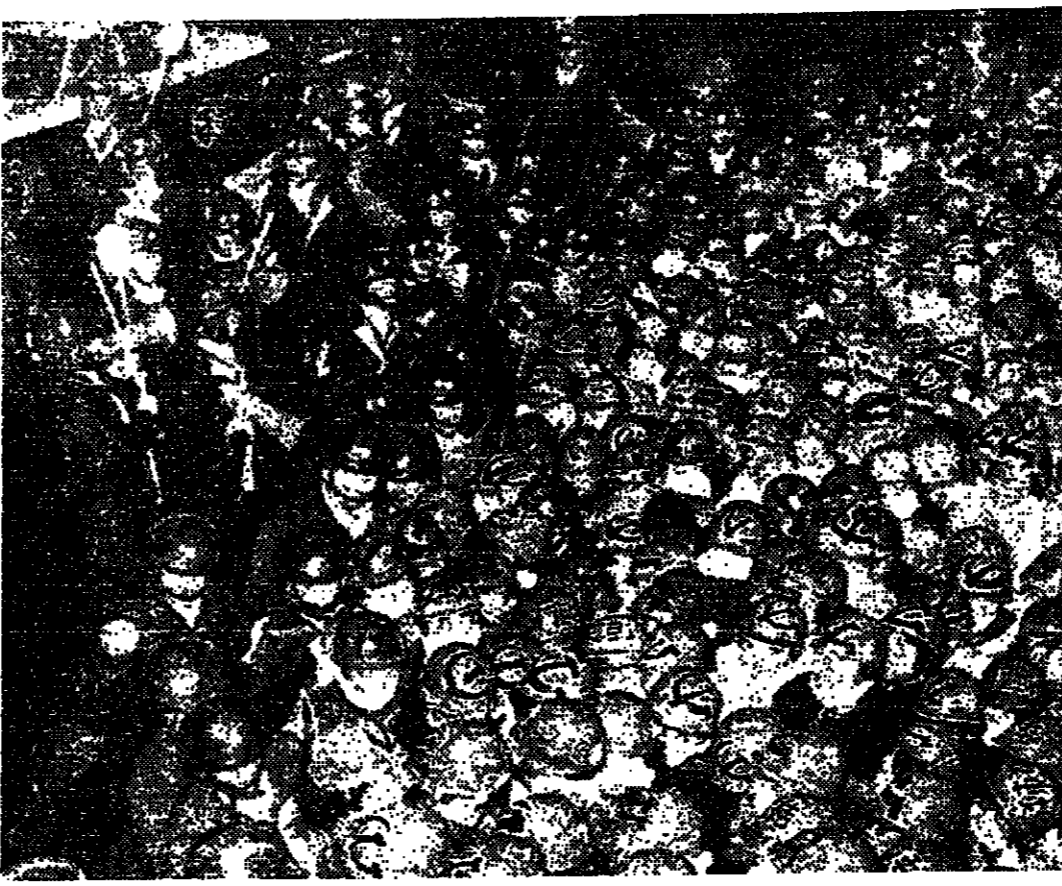
The next major Soviet-American summit will take place in Washington next year and Mr Ford hopes that meeting Mr Brezhnev in advance will help to achieve results at the summit.

There will be no very notable agreements reached at Vladivostok. The strategic arms limitation negotiations, which Mr Nixon hoped to finish last summer when he visited Moscow, are still far from completion. The two leaders may give further instructions to their negotiators, but matters of this sort are not, in practical terms, settled at summits.

The main issue on the world-agenda now is, of course, the Middle East. The Russians want to be consulted on the process of negotiation.

This is not merely amour propre. Russia is a power in the world and determined to make its strength felt in the Middle East. It is not clear whether Russia will oppose a settlement if it has not participated in negotiations.

Dr Kissinger and President Ford would like to know and they can now ask Mr Brezhnev. When Mr Nixon was first in Moscow, and even more when Mr Brezhnev came to Washington, the Russians assured the Americans that they would use their influence for peace and would cooperate to prevent any new war between Israel and its neighbours. The assurances were not kept.



Helmeted police herd helmeted students thronging Tokyo streets against President Ford's visit.

Tokyo girds itself for Ford visit

From Peter Hazelhurst Tokyo, Nov 17

Little or nothing of substance is expected to emerge from summit talks between Japanese and American leaders at this week when President Ford begins an otherwise historic and symbolic seven-day state visit to Japan and South Korea.

The significance of Mr Ford's forthcoming odyssey in the Orient is under no doubt. He will become the first American head of state to visit Japan when he arrives at Haneda airport tomorrow afternoon to a 21-gun salute.

He will be received by Emperor Hirohito at the imperial palace in Tokyo, the first time that Japan's imperial head of state and an American President will have met formally on the home soil of either nation since the two countries initiated diplomatic ties more than 100 years ago. Summit talks with Mr Tanaka, the Prime Minister, will follow on Wednesday.

But observers do not expect any significant shift in the relationship between the United States and its closest ally in Asia.

American diplomats claim that there are few problems in bilateral relations between Japan and the United States (apart from some small pinpricks in trade such as Japanese quotas on beef imports) and the two leaders are expected to deal with international problems such as food, inflation, petrodollars, the non-nuclear proliferation treaty and the monetary situation.

What could emerge as the most important factor of the talks, is Mr Tanaka's expected declaration that Japan is not prepared to comply with Dr Kissinger's plan to reduce the consumer nations' imports of oil.

If any real political significance can be attached to the visit then it is the fact that President Ford could not have chosen a more inopportune moment to travel to Tokyo and South Korea.

In Tokyo he will be meeting a Prime Minister who is already described as a lame duck. It is indeed doubtful whether Mr Tanaka will remain in office after he has gone through the courtesy of receiving the American President. He has so far failed to satisfy charges that he has indulged in dubious business deals and evaded taxes while in office.

Mr Ford will also be talking to a Prime Minister whose personal popularity rating has dropped below 18 per cent and the leader of a debilitated ruling party of Liberal Democrats who suffered a calamitous setback in the July elections.

At the same time, recent allegations that Mr Tanaka's Government has permitted American warships to carry nuclear weapons into Japanese ports under a secret clause of the security treaty has given the Communists and the left wing a handy weapon to work up feelings against the visit.

On the eve of Mr Ford's arrival trade unions and the Communist Party launched a campaign to embarrass him and Mr Tanaka during the next four days. An estimated 50,000 demonstrators marched through Tokyo today to protest against the visit.

Railway workers' unions, under the influence of Socialist and Communist Parties, plan to paralyse train services on Tuesday to coincide their protests with the climax of the visit: the formal and historic meeting between a Japanese Emperor and an American President.

In essence, the Opposition parties oppose the visit on the grounds that Mr Tanaka will use it to bolster up his crumbling political image in the country.

The Opposition claims that it is capable of mustering near four million demonstrators during the visit and the ultra left-wing extremists have threatened to disrupt Mr Ford's itinerary. As a result, the extraordinarily tight security arrangements will completely isolate the American President from the Japanese people and all main opposition parties.

This embarrassing situation provoked one newspaper reader to comment last week: "The first American President to visit Japan will arrive not as a guest but as a prisoner of the Japanese Government."

Korean democrats and many American intellectuals and liberals in the Orient are also protesting vociferously at the visit to Seoul which is regarded simply as an endorsement of the dictatorial regime of President Park Chung Hee.

Professor Edwin Reischauer, the Harvard scholar and former American Ambassador to Japan, who has been attempting to assist President Park's main political opponent, Mr Kim Dae Jung, under virtual house arrest in Seoul, has openly condemned the visit.

World resolve to end hunger in a decade

From Peter Nichols Rome, Nov 17

The world food conference ended in Rome late last night after 11 days of debate with the pledge that "within a decade no child will go to bed hungry, that no family will fear for its next day's bread."

The words were taken from the speech with which Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, opened the first day of debate, but Mr Sayed Marei, secretary general of the conference, in his closing remarks last night, pointed out to delegates that the resolve was now "a solemn pledge of the entire international community". Mr Marei continued: "History will judge the adequacy of our policies and actions in relation to this pledge."

It is reasonable to say that few conferences can have consciously accepted so huge a responsibility on the part of the world's governments. To back this vast undertaking, the conference, in the words of Senator Giuseppe Medici, its president, had only "sketched the beginning of a world food policy". The senator went on: "We must be very conscious that it is only the beginning."

This sketch consists largely of what the secretariat regarded as the three pillars of a world food policy: an increase in food production in the developing world, improved distribution of food, and a better system of world food security. The conference agreed on four principal recommendations to follow up the conference's work. These initiatives are as follows:

- 1. The establishment of a world food council, a body which would coordinate the activities of various international agencies. If the proposal is approved by the United Nations General Assembly, the council will be established at ministerial or plenipotentiary level to function as an overall coordinating mechanism for policies concerning food production, nutrition, food security and food aid.
- 2. The creation of an international fund for agricultural development to channel investment towards the improvement of agriculture in the developing world, with contributions to come on a voluntary basis but from nations normally associated with foreign assistance and from developing countries with ample means.
- 3. Agreeing on an international undertaking on world food security based on a coordinating system of nationally held reserves supported by a world wide food information and food shortage detection service.
- 4. The commitment to provide on a three-year forward planning basis, commodities and financial aid to a minimum of 100 million tons of cereals each year, plus certain other food commodities.

In his final assessment of the conference's work, Mr Marei made no secret of his disappointment that the participants had failed to rise to the occasion by offering more concrete steps to deal with famine. The most stricken affected countries require his estimate, seven to eight million tons of additional grain in the next eight months.

He does not, however, see this failure as final. A vote is due to take place on November 29 which will be attended by the principal exporters and representatives of the deficit countries. It is expected that the vote will be an exact inventory of requirements and available supplies.

Some of the delegates' strong feelings about the need to give immediate help to the poorest countries, however, Americans for having refused to take the lead, but there is a general tendency throughout the conference to wait for something to act first. The only so far promised to the world is a symbolic gesture from the Pope. The conference's declaration declares that "every woman and child has the right to be free from hunger, malnutrition". And that "delegates were urged to contribute to the struggle to eradicate themselves the historical importance of they had done."

Body of Eva Peron taken back to Argentina

Buenos Aires, Nov 17

The embalmed body of Eva Duarte Peron, who was the idol of Argentine workers, returned to Buenos Aires today almost 19 years after it was smuggled away by soldiers who overthrew her husband, the late President Juan Peron.

The body was brought from Madrid, where it had lain for the past three years, on board a chartered Boeing 707 of Aerolineas Argentinas, which arrived early this morning at Moron air base on the outskirts of the city.

The coffin, draped in an Argentine flag which concealed a glass plate over the face, was transferred to a small Air Force transport aircraft and taken to the metropolitan airport on the shore of the River Plate estuary.

President Maria Estela Peron, the general's second wife, waited to welcome the remains of the woman she last night called "the spiritual leader" of the Argentine people.

The President blinked back tears as an Army chaplain said prayers for the soul of "Evita", who died of cancer in 1952 at the age of 33. She was smuggled away to be buried under a false name. The coffin was taken to the presidential residence in the Buenos Aires suburb of Olivos, where the body lies in a specially built crypt. Delegates were followed by a lorry a few minutes later. Her body reached Buenos Aires on October 25. A cemetery on October members of the Monton urban guerrilla movement which said in a communique last night that his remains would be returned as those of Eva Peron were on Argentine soil.

Our Madrid Correspondent writes: Señor Pedro Mauri, the Spanish Minister, went personally to see off the flight which carried the remains of the Argentine of General Peron.

Syria and Israel both deny plans for war

Continued from page 1

1973, the Syrians have been rebuilding their military strength with massive Russian assistance.

There is a growing Arab conviction that Israel is certain to undertake a pre-emptive attack against Syria with the principal objective of destroying its military machine. It is the Arab view that the Israelis would hope for a successful blitzkrieg which could be completed before Egypt would be forced to open up its front.

However, the Arab reaction to this weekend's scare indicated that this would not be the likely sequence of events. Indeed, it was specifically with its fear of isolation in battle that Syria sought and won Arab assurances of support at the Rabat summit.

Although Egypt indicated at Rabat that it was in no position to wage a war at this stage, it could not withstand adverse Arab reaction.

Patrick Brogan writes from Washington: There was much activity in Washington this weekend as Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State, tried to discover how serious the Middle East war scare was.

He summoned the Israeli Ambassador, Mr Simcha Dimitz, yesterday and told him that he had received assurances that Syria had no plans to attack Israel.

In return, the Ambassador assured the Secretary of State that reports of Israel mobilization were "highly exaggerated" and that Israel has no intention of attacking anyone.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, the Ambassador said that the partial mobilization was a precautionary measure, "necessary steps in order not to be surprised". Reports from Egypt and Israel were not kept.



URGENT! World Food Crisis

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Indian smugglers lose right of appeal

From Michael Hornsby Delhi, Nov 17

In a draconian move against smugglers and "economic offenders" the Indian Government yesterday suspended for six months the constitutionally guaranteed right of judicial appeal of those arrested under recently amended preventive detention laws.

Defending the new measures against strong criticism from opposition parties, Mr Brahmansada Reddy, the Home Minister, said that it was "very necessary to ensure that smugglers are not let off on technical grounds."

Mr Reddy disclosed that out of 99 alleged smugglers and blackmarketeers arrested in recent months 20 had been released because courts had ruled that the reasons for their detention were "not sufficiently precise or specific or proximate".

The new presidential ordinance was necessary, Mr Reddy argued in a briefing for Indian journalists, because it was difficult to catch smugglers or foreign exchange racketeers red handed on account of the clandestine nature of their operations.

Hitherto anyone arrested under the preventive detention provisions of the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, which was amended a few months ago to cover a new category of "economic offender", could seek a judicial review of his case.

The latest ordinance means that anyone deemed by the Government to have committed an "economic offence" can be detained virtually indefinitely without the right either of appeal or of trial. The ordinance can be extended after six months with parliamentary approval, which is ensured by the ruling Congress Party's massive majority.

Opposition parties were unanimous over the weekend in pronouncing the Government move unconstitutional. They argued that already existing laws were sufficient to deal with smugglers and asked why no measures had yet been taken against the smugglers' political patrons.

The strongest reaction came from Mr Jyotirmoy Bose, the leader of the more militant of India's two Communist Parties, who accused Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, of "aspiring to be a fascist leader."

"Now what remains of democracy?" Mr Bose asked. "Everyone will be at the mercy of the police and the executive. The rule of law has been overthrown and courts have become redundant."

Mrs Bandaranaike, the Prime Minister, arrived at Colombo airport late last night after a visit to the Soviet Union and was flown to her official residence by helicopter.

In recent weeks both the Trotskyists and the pro-Moscow Communists, who are members of Mrs Bandaranaike's United Front Government have intensified propaganda in their party journals for the nationalization of foreign banks and big companies.

The campaign began after Mrs Bandaranaike, in a speech to the executive committee of her own Freedom Party, criticized those who were in a hurry to bring about the nationalization of big firms. This annoyed the Trotskyists and pro-Moscow Communists, who planned yesterday's demonstration as a show of strength.

Police today used batons in a charge against the demonstrators according to eyewitnesses; but Colombo police headquarters denied the use of batons on the crowd.—Reuter.

Mr Ford withdraws name of Nixon man as envoy

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Nov 17

President Ford has bowed to congressional opposition to a nomination he had sent to the Senate, by withdrawing the name of Mr Peter Flannigan, whom he had nominated Ambassador to Spain. This followed a few days the President's withdrawal of the nomination of Mr Andrew Gibson to be head of the Federal Energy Administration.

There was no chance of Mr Flannigan's nomination being approved. He is a Nixon man, and worked with him in the White House for six years. This would be nearly enough to ruin his chances of an ambassadorship, but he is also accused of being Mr Nixon's embassy broker and of selling American

embassies to those who might contribute to the reelection of Mr Nixon in 1972.

The chief surprise is that Mr Ford should have nominated him in the first place, and then have resubmitted the nomination after the Senate had allowed it to die by refusing to act on it before the election recess.

The White House also announced the nomination of a new Ambassador to Portugal, Mr Frank Carlucci, who is Under-Secretary for Health, Education and Welfare. He will replace Mr Stuart Nash, who was removed from his post because it seemed to his superiors that he underestimated the dangers of a communist presence in the Portuguese Government.

Turkish Cabinet formed by independent senator

From Our Correspondent Ankara, Nov 17

The new Government is as follows: Prime Minister: Sadi Irmak. Deputy Prime Minister: Zeynal Bayraktar. Minister of State: Mustafa Faruk. Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mustafa Sarikaya. Minister of Defence: Mehmet Gökhan. Minister of Education: Mustafa Sarikaya. Minister of Health, Education and Welfare: Mustafa Sarikaya. Minister of Agriculture: Mustafa Sarikaya. Minister of Industry: Mustafa Sarikaya. Minister of Information: İlhan Evliyeva. Minister of Labour: Mustafa Sarikaya. Minister of Social Security: Sadık Sığirci.

Non-parliamentary Cabinet members are: six civil servants, seven professors, one trade unionist, and a former Reliance Party deputy.

Colombo curfew stops protest by Trotskyists

From Our Correspondent Colombo, Nov 17

Colombo was put under a curfew from 1 pm yesterday until 6 am today after the Trotskyist Sama Samajya (Equal Society) Party decided to stage a ban on a demonstration it had planned to hold yesterday evening.

Because of the curfew, about 1,000 party supporters—the men wearing red shirts and the women red saris—who had gathered for a party for the demonstration were asked by Trotskyist leaders to go home, which they did.

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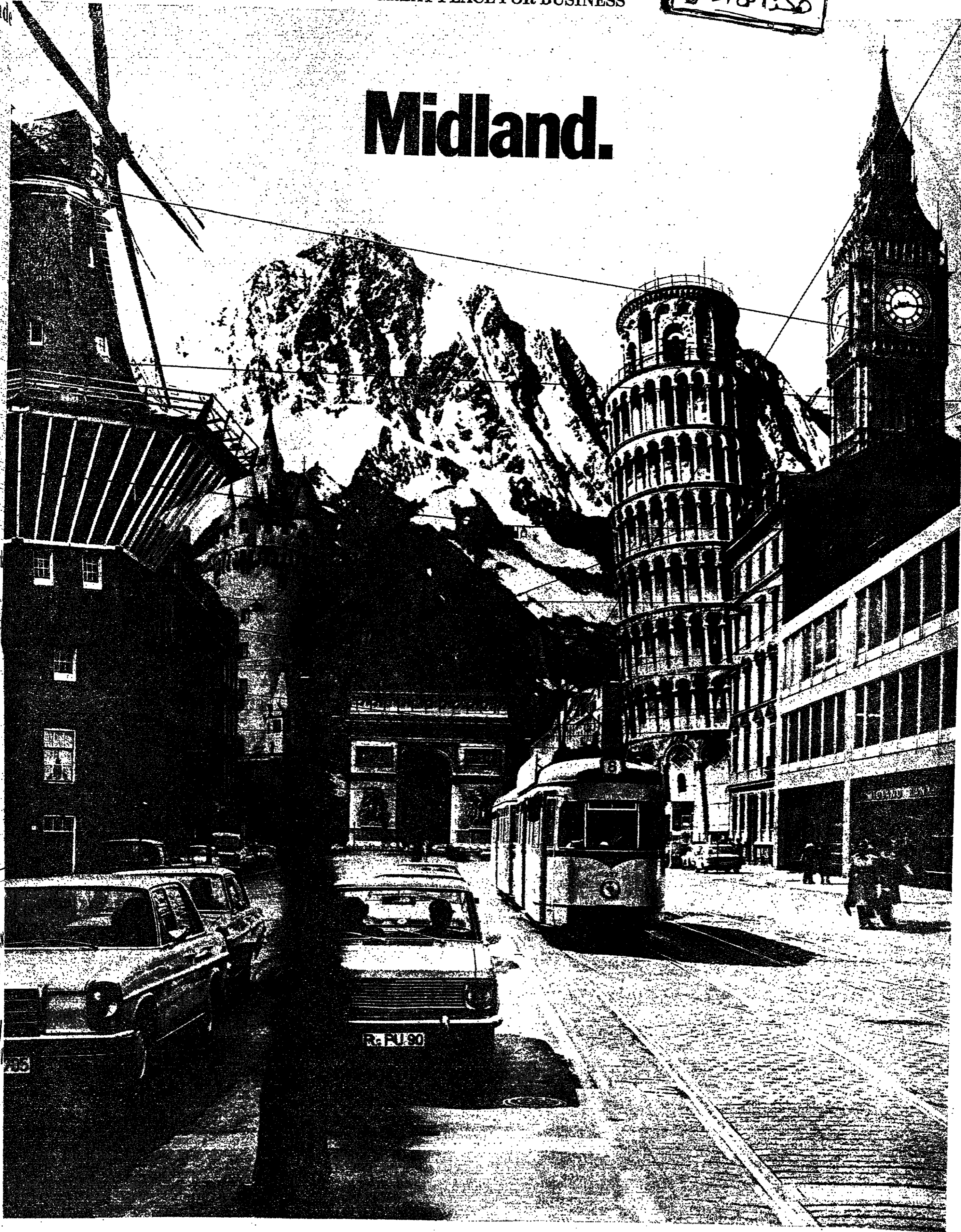
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OVERSEAS

Eight African homeland leaders reject Mr Vorster's concept of independent Bantustans

From Michael Knipe
Cape Town, Nov 17

The gulf between the aspirations of South Africa's white and black political leaders became sharply evident this weekend.

Eight African homeland leaders made it clear that at this stage they reject the concept of independent Bantustans which is a cornerstone of the Government's apartheid policy.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister, Mr Vorster, stated emphatically that one man one vote representation in a single parliament was out of the question. Thus the races continue to be set on a course of bitter confrontation.

The homeland leaders emphasised after a conference that black South Africans were entitled to a joint future with whites in the Republic and a share in the country's riches.

They said in a statement that some of them quarrelled with the decision of the Transkei to seek independence within the framework of the Government's separate development policy.

But, they said: "No other black leader had any intention at this point in time to seek independence for any other territory. The Transkei, which is divided in only two blocks of land, is the homeland with the greatest hope of viability and its conservative leader, Chief Kaiser Matanzima, has requested independence from South Africa within five years.

The other leaders are not

prepared to accept independence at least until their fragmented territories have been consolidated and provided with a viable economic infrastructure. Even then it is uncertain whether they would agree to independence.

Professor Ntanzwisi, the leader of Gazankulu, a tiny enclave in the Transvaal bordering Mozambique, said yesterday that to do so would be to sell their birthright as South Africans. "We would lose our claims to South Africa's wealth and would be abandoning our claims to an economy that we have helped build up," he said.

Professor Ntanzwisi said the Government's Bantustan concept could not be abandoned at this late stage but the Bantustans should form an integral part of South Africa.

The black political leaders expressed favour for a federal solution to the republic's race problem "within a single economically indivisible country".

The Prime Minister, in a speech to supporters yesterday said blacks would have majority rule in their homelands "but the whites will rule South Africa".

In a message to the homeland leaders he said: "If there are any of you who nourish the hope of one man one vote in the white Parliament then you are being misled because it will not happen."

Mr Vorster contended that his party's policy was one of differentiation, not discrimination. It intended to remove dis-

crimination if it existed. However, under no circumstances could political power leave the hands of "our people". When power was shared it could not be regained.

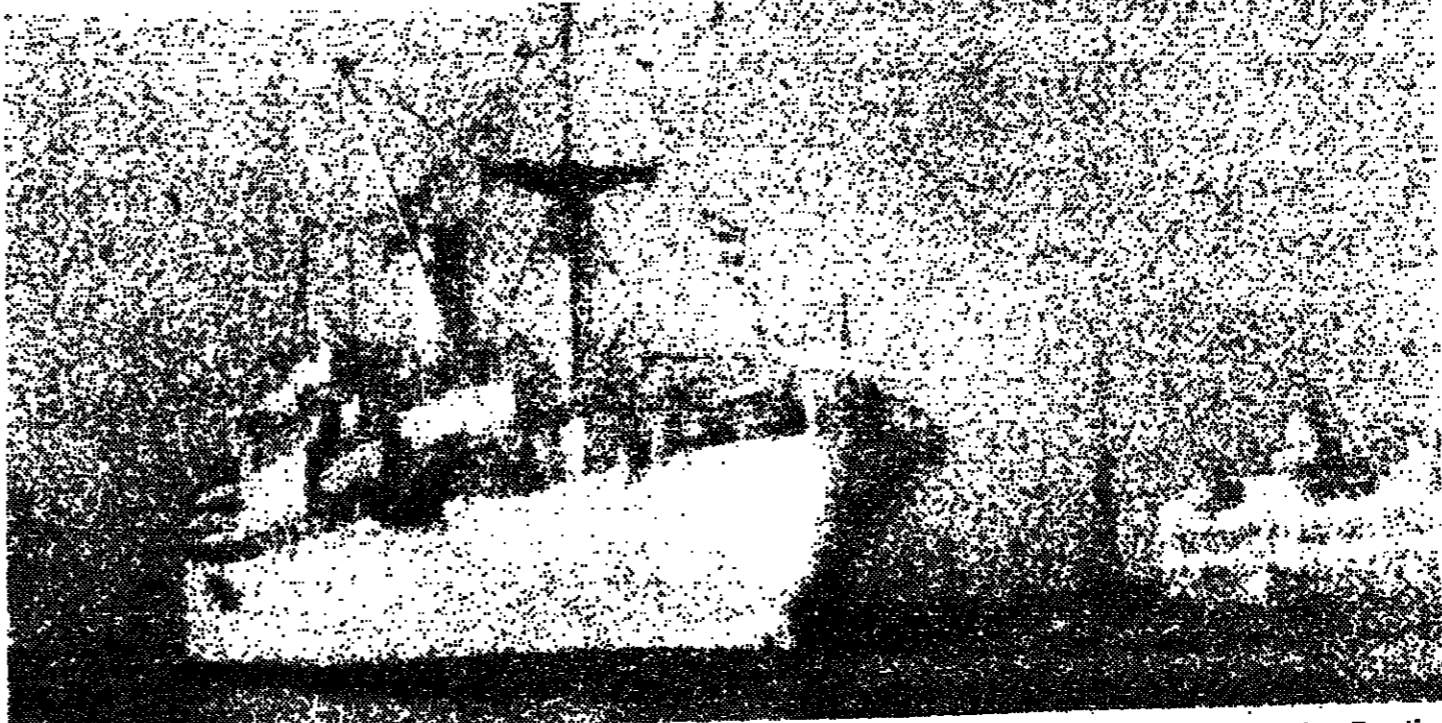
The Prime Minister reiterated his promise of a startling change in South Africa's political situation in six months time but denied that this inferred changes in the government's apartheid policies. Any internal changes would be within the framework of separate development, he said.

At their meeting, the black political leaders endorsed the moves towards detente in Southern Africa made by Mr Vorster and President Kaunda of Zambia.

Mr Donald Easton, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, who is visiting South Africa during a factfinding mission to the continent said at a press conference yesterday that he was "cautiously optimistic" about the possibility of change in the Republic.

Islands to vote on independence

Moroni, Nov 17.—Mr Ahmed Abdallah, the Premier of the Comoro Archipelago, today returned to Moroni from Paris where he has been engaged in arrangements for a referendum on independence in the Indian Ocean archipelago next month.



The first ship to use the Suez Canal commercially since 1967 passing Port Said on Saturday. It was leading three other Egyptian ships to Suez, where they are to pick up pilgrims bound for Mecca.

Egypt warns superpowers of war dangers

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, Nov 17

President Sadat has carried out urgent consultations with his senior political and military staff during the past 24 hours against the background of mounting tension in the Middle East.

The flurry of political, military and diplomatic activities here was prompted by reports of Israel and Syrian military build-ups.

Mr Sadat yesterday presided over a meeting attended by Field-Marshal Ahmed Ismail,

the War Minister, Mr Mamdouh Salem, the Interior Minister, Mr Ismail Fahmi, the Foreign Minister, and the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Mohammad Abdul Ghani Ghami.

After the meeting Mr Fahmi summoned the American and Soviet ambassadors separately to convey urgent messages from President Sadat to President Ford and Mr Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader.

In this Mr Sadat warned the leaders of the two superpowers of the serious consequences of Israel's call-up of reserves and

movements of forces. Egypt has said it will not stand idly by if Israel attacks Syria.

Field-Marshal Ismail, Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian and Syrian fronts, conferred yesterday with the Soviet Ambassador in Cairo, Mr Vladimir Polyakov.

The question of Soviet weapons supplies to this country is expected to be an important topic in the talks between Mr Sadat and Mr Brezhnev when the Soviet leader visits Cairo in January.

The atmosphere in Egypt was

normal today with thousands attending football matches in Cairo, Ismailia and other towns. But Cairo newspapers today gave warnings of the possibility of an Israeli attack.

Al Gomhouria said: "Israel waging a new war is not a remote probability. On the contrary, it is a possibility. It is not important to know whether Israel will start a new war or not but it is more important that she will not take us by surprise or wrest the initiative from us."

Tension in Israel eases over Syria alert

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Nov 17

Assisted by the weekend in Israel over the situation on the Syrian border abated today after assurances from Washington that Syria did not intend to attack.

The immediate cause of the tension remained a mystery. Mr Peres, the Defence Minister, said vaguely last night the Israel had mobilized its reserve as a precaution in response to an "unexplained" alert in the Syrian Army.

Mr Peres said in a television interview that the Rabat summit conference had disrupted political moves and had brought the Arabs to the "extreme" a fanatic rhetoric of the Palestinians.

He noted that the Syria had been declaring that it would not extend the disengagement agreement, which expires on November 30, and that the United Nations forces would have to leave.

On Friday, while the mobilization was in process, Rabin, the Prime Minister, said that more than 20 Soviet supply ships were unloading arms for Syria in Latakia.

Nervousness among the civilians had been heightened by the military censoring, had been obvious that reser were being called up on 1 day but the media in Is and abroad were preve from reporting it except quoting foreign sources.

Life in settlements and D villages on the Golan hee seemed normal this week. All roads were open and it was tourist traffic all the way to the United Nations position. Army traffic was not particularly heavy, but buses mobilized reservists and ammunition convoys were.

The easing of tension was relative. Responsible Israel maintained that the situation would remain dangerous. The Syrians decided to act by the mandate of the United Nations observer force. force occupies a zone separate the Israel and Syrian armies surveys limited zones on sides of the disengagement.

Syria's failure to renew the bilateral relations and for the Middle East in general.

It is expected that an increase in trade will occupy most of the discussion. The volume of trade between the two countries experienced a slump early this year because of the disagreement that existed over the price of Iranian natural gas of which 10 billion tonnes is exported annually to the Soviet Union. A few months ago agreement was reached on a new price.

Experts believe that trade could expand greatly if only because of the two countries' proximity.

Also expected to be covered during the talks between the Shah and Soviet officials are his proposal for making the Middle East a nuclear-free zone. The Soviet Union has privately expressed its support for this idea.

Shah goes off to Moscow to talk trade

From Our Correspondent
Teheran, Nov 17

The Shah of Iran will leave tomorrow for an official visit to the Soviet Union which is regarded here as vital both for bilateral relations and for the Middle East in general.

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Also expected to be covered during the talks between the Shah and Soviet officials are his proposal for making the Middle East a nuclear-free zone. The Soviet Union has privately expressed its support for this idea.

Soviet cruiser to visit Syrian port

Moscow, Nov 17.—The Soviet Union is to send three ships from its Black Sea fleet to the Syrian port of Latakia for an official visit from November 20 to 25, Tass announced today.

The group will consist of a cruiser—flagship of Vice-Admiral Nikolai Khovrin, commander-in-chief of the Black Sea fleet—a destroyer and a submarine.—Reuter.

World recession spectre affects Canton fair

From David Bonavia
Peking, Nov 17

The possibility of a world recession, and perhaps a shortage of funds on the Chinese side, have meant that the autumn trade fair which has just closed in Canton was one of the most depressed for a number of years.

Chinese official media have described the fair as a great success but Western officials and businessmen generally paint a picture of slack trading and falling attendances. One businessman went so far as to describe the fair as the most disappointing one "since the Cultural Revolution".

After China's buying spree of the past two years or so, the country is caught in a financial scissors because of the high world price of wheat, which it imports, and the relatively low price this year of rice, which it exports.

Chinese officials show keen

interest in recent economic problems of the developed world, which pose serious questions about future trading relations. While proclaiming a crisis of capitalism as a caution of Marxist ideas, Chinese commentators also that it has affected the power of those trading China.

By contrast with China genuinely seems to have no internal inflation except the small sector of the economy which deals with foreign currencies imported into the Chinese market. They have less abroad and rely on the labour and inventiveness of their own people, even means slowing down the country's economic development.

The nations concerned in the trade relations are still valued quite highly and is therefore not subject to black market pressures in the East European.

Chou operation said to be for stomach cancer

Peking, Nov 17.—Mr Chou En-lai, the Chinese Prime Minister, was operated on about 10 weeks ago for cancer of the stomach, according to reliable sources here. He is 76 and has been ill for six months.

His doctors are not yet able to say what have been the results of the operation or of the cobalt radiation treatment which he is now undergoing. It seems, however, that he is recovering satisfactorily.

When he received foreign visitors in hospital—as was the case five times in the last six weeks—Mr Chou was not in bed, walked normally and spoke with his usual wit.—Agence France-Presse.

'Don't call us Pommies' plea by Briton

Sydney, Nov 17.—Mr Stewart, an English immigrant here today he hopes before a Royal Commission trying to get Australians to call Britons "Pommies".

Mr Stewart, who only here 10 years ago from St. London, told reporters he needed to put his complaint to the Royal Commission on British Relationships, which is being held in Sydney recently.

He said many Australians used the term without realizing it had become abusive and offensive. It got on his nerves and might even lead to the MCC cricket team leaving Australia.—Reuter.

100 Baiza
1973-1974
Opening of Ministerial Complex
We've been posted abroad before.
But never like this.

On both 25 and 100 Baiza denomination Oman postage stamps you'll find a picture of Sultan H.M. Qaboos bin Said. And alongside, the new Government offices, we designed, built and furnished for him.

It's Oman's first main government building, and inaugurates a programme of planned expansion for the Omani people.

But all we had to start with was a piece of land, and little local material available.

So we had to start from scratch, shipping much of the building materials over from this country.

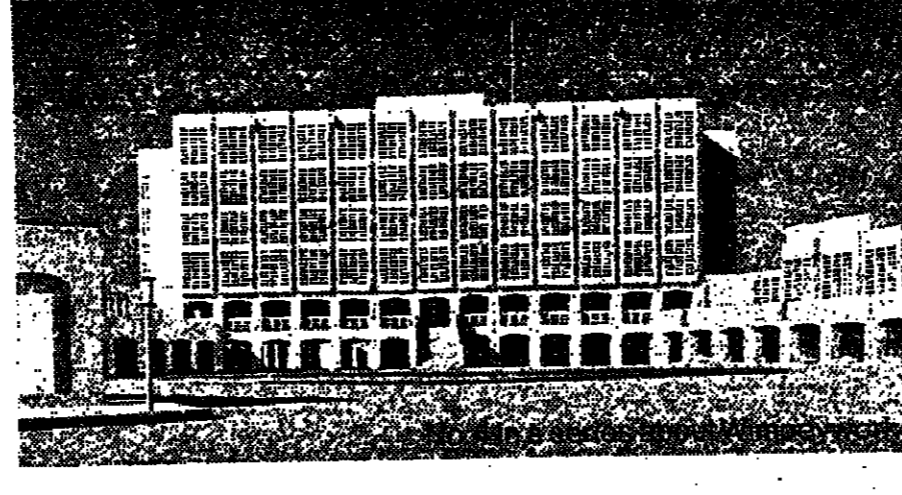
To commemorate the official opening, the Sultan bestowed this special honour: his stamp of approval.

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Which is why an international group like Wimpey can build so much into your ideas.



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ENTERTAINMENTS

THE ARTS

BOOKS

OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN... THE ROYAL OPERA... THE ROYAL BALLET...

THEATRES

PHOENIX... THE GINGERBREAD LADY... THE MALE OF THE SPECIES...

EXHIBITIONS

HIGHLAND HOME INDUSTRIES... NATIONAL BOOK LEAGUE... ART EXHIBITIONS...



Roland Culver and Gerald James

Weekend television

Harry Lifters

ATV... Leonard Buckley... Pay beds? You and Mrs Castle don't know the half of it...

Omibus

BBC 1... Michael Ratcliffe... I had waited so long for someone to make a television film about Offenbach...

Mature new work by young choreographer

The Calm Sadler's Wells... John Percival... Stobhan Davies's new work for London contemporary Dance Theatre tells us something about human nature by means of pure dance...

Feminine creation

Three Degrees New Victoria... Philip Norman... It has been a very good year for Gamble and Huff. These songwriters-producers, in their Sigmund studio in Philadelphia, continue to produce an astonishing run of hit records...

Dad's Army

BBC 1... Stanley Reynolds... Dad's Army is funny only because the Home Guard was in a deadly earnest. This is a simple, down-to-earth trick which escapes most of modern comedy...

Heirs to the High Stewards

Mary Cosh... The Stewart Kingdom of Scotland 1371-1603... The Stewart kings were no more royal in origin than the Tudors, but the family had been around for centuries as hereditary High Stewards of Scotland...

A very funny book.

Advertisement for Bryan Forbes' book 'Notes for a Life'. The text describes the book as 'A sane, vital, and often maniacally funny book one is sorry to part from at the end.' It is published by Collins and priced at £4.00.

CONCERTS

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL... THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA...

THEATRES

APOLLO... KATY MANNING... THE NEW COMEDY HIT...

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THEATRES

APOLLO... KATY MANNING... THE NEW COMEDY HIT...

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A Volvo never had looks like this before.

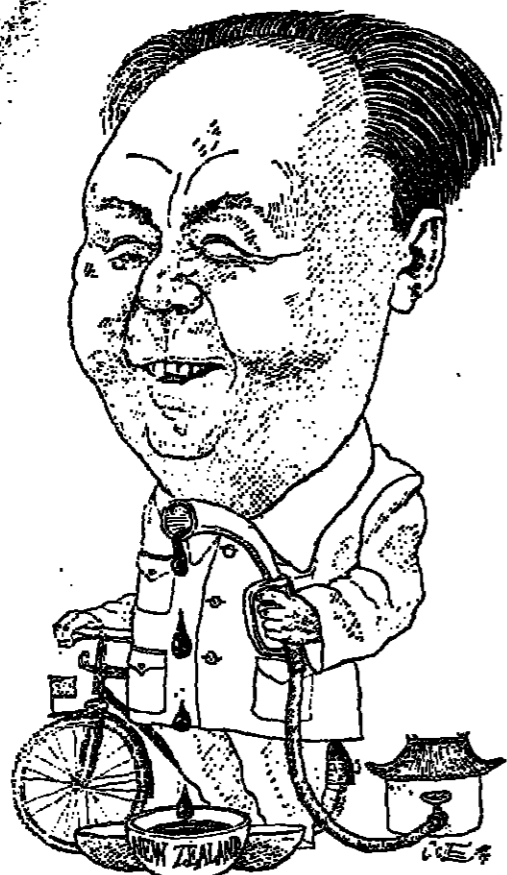
No, sir.
 In days gone by the ladies wouldn't give us a look in that Volvos were not for them.
 Somehow or other, they'd got it into their heads 'A man's car,' feminists muttered.
 'Big and safe and reliable and hard-wearing. Nobody looks at you in a Volvo'.
 While this view wasn't quite fair, there was enough truth in it to sting us into action.
 We present one of the results of our labours.
 The new Volvo 244. Part of our first new series of cars for nearly nine years.
 An event in itself.
 And, we think, a turning point in our rather long, unsuccessful suit with women.
 For a start, you'll undoubtedly get winked at in a 244.
 The only problem may be that the young man in the sports car will choose to look at the car's body.
 He may wind down the window and ask a few questions.
 It'll be as well to humour him.
 Knowing how men like technical banter, here are

a few things you should know.
 The long, lean front isn't just there for the looks. Oh dear me, no.
 It's made so as to cushion the blow should you make the chance acquaintance with a brick wall at 50 miles an hour.
 The seats, now.
 The cushion and backrest, inform him firmly, incorporate a network of metal wires tensioned by coil springs. The kind of comfort you've been aching for.
 The whole driver's seat can be moved, not only forward and back, but also up and down.
 Useful if both a 6ft husband and a 5ft wife drive the car.
 Oh, and there's a rather charming quartz clock that you could put Big Ben right by.
 Being a man, he'll want to know about the engine.
 It's new, I believe, you should say in a throwaway manner. Rather bigger than before.
 Very smart off the mark, you might add, wondering whether to put him through his paces.
 But then, of course, it has got an aluminium head and an overhead camshaft.

So quiet, and the torque's as marvellous as ever.
 He'll know what you mean.
 To floor him totally, all you have to do is drop in a line about the cross-flow cylinder head making for better scavenging.
 He'll be a slave for life after that.
 If he's still asking for more, tell him all about the handling.
 How, what with the new spring struts, the anti-roll member and the lower centre of gravity, it corners like a dream.
 And rack and pinion steering is so effortless, you know.
 Having said that, slip the ignition key into the snug new lock (the engine will fire first time with its new powerful starter) and pull away with arrogant ease.
 Here is a suggestion of an exit line.
 Look witheringly at his lowly vehicle and ask him if he hasn't ever hankered after something as reliable as a Volvo.

It should be the coup de grâce.
The new Volvo 244.

Where China has to compromise over 'self-reliance'



A mediocre car costing more than £4,000, and an offer of oil for New Zealand, are the opposite ends of China's strange economic dilemma. The country is just reaching the point where the policy of "self-reliance" in industry and technology is likely to prove drastically less effective than it has done in agriculture. The expected boom in Chinese oil production over the next few years will probably save Peking from facing up to the potentially serious consequences of this policy.

There are many indications just now that economic policy is being strongly debated, as the country prepares for its fourth National People's Congress and the last year of the current five year plan. Increased emphasis, in films, stage plays and the public media, on the policy of technological self-reliance, a goal that it is still meeting a good deal of resistance. "Self-reliance" has always been a question of degree rather than of definition, since China invented gunpowder and the west used it to dismember her. The ideas of Chairman Mao Tse-tung by no means rule out imports of foreign knowledge—indeed they encourage them. But the slogan itself, and the nationalistic feelings it can arouse when abused, have led China's industrial development up a number of one-way streets in the past.

"Self-reliance" seems to be a splendid means of developing agriculture in poor countries and guaranteeing a livelihood for millions of peasants. But it is probably unworkable under the political system under which it is implemented in China.

In industry and technology the virtues of "self-reliance" are largely born of necessity and are questioned by many knowledgeable western industrialists and businessmen. When Russia withdrew its technicians in 1960 the Chinese simply had to find their own ways of developing steel and other industries and even building nuclear missiles. But recent experience has shown that the policy is much less useful when applied to more simple things.

Foreigners in China, though

David Bonavia

The tragedy and the conflict behind the war's last secret How thousands of Russians went home to their deaths

"The last secret of the Second World War" as Alexander Solzhenitsyn describes it, was Britain's and the United States' delivery to the Soviet authorities of between 2,000,000 and 4,000,000 Soviet citizens, displaced persons from German prisoner-of-war camps and labour units as well as others who had willingly changed sides during the war. Virtually all of these millions, whether they had betrayed the Soviet Union or not, were sent to the labour camps of Siberia where they froze and starved to death in huge numbers. Now that the relevant documents are available one can see that this decision, one of the most life-destroying of recent history, was taken only after an unusual and highly emotional conflict between various British officials and senior ministers.

Russians began falling into Allied hands after the D-Day landings of June 6, 1944. In the early days about 10 per cent of men captured in German uniform were Soviet citizens, most of them starved and humiliated, who had been pressed into service on the Atlantic Wall. They were shipped to Britain, where they were naturally seen as a thorough nuisance and a possible threat to the Allied cause. On July 17 the Cabinet agreed in principle to hand them all over to the Soviet authorities as soon as shipping could be arranged.

There the matter might have rested, had it not been taken up most energetically by the minister responsible for the famous espionage and sabotage team known as Special Operations Executive. On July 21 he addressed a most moving letter to Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary, and was profoundly moved by the decision of the Cabinet to send back to Russia all Russian subjects who fall into our hands on the battlefields of Europe. I propose to address the Prime Minister on this subject, but before doing so would like you to know the grounds of my opposition, in the hope that we may find ourselves in agreement in this matter.

"As you may know, one of my officers has during the past few weeks interviewed a number of Russian prisoners, and

in every case their story is substantially the same. The first place they are subject to in-credible hardship and treatment on being taken prisoner. They were marched in many cases for several days without any food. They were placed in concentration camps under appalling sanitary conditions and were starved. They became infested with vermin, they were the victims of loathsome diseases and starvation was carried to such a point that conditions became prevalent. In more than one instance the Germans filmed cannibalistic meals for propaganda purposes.

"After several weeks of this treatment and when their morale was completely broken, they were paraded and addressed by a German officer, who invited the prisoners to join German labour battalions in which they would receive proper clothes, rations and treatment. They were then asked individually if they would accept this offer or not. The first man whom I asked replied 'no'. He was immediately shot. The same thing happened to the second and to the third and so on until at last one man said he would, and then the others also agreed, as it was clearly the only way of saving their lives."

The SOE officer mentioned in Selborne's letter was Major L. H. Manderstam, who had been born in Riga, the capital of Latvia, and travelled widely in Russia before coming to live in England. The prisoner told Manderstam how after only a few days in the labour battalion they were given rifles and simply told they were in the German army. Their only hope was to fight furiously on the Algerian front, they were told, because if they fell into American or British hands they would be handed over to the Soviet Union and shot. But while some accepted this story and fought hard, others believed that the western allies would give them asylum and take the first chance of desertion.

Some of the more thoughtful prisoners gave another reason why their return to Russia was unthinkable: "Should we return we would be an embarrassment to our government. We were told that in Russia the

lot of workers was better than in any country in the world. Since we have been taken prisoner we know there is a higher standard of life in France, in Belgium, in Norway, for the workers than in Russia. . . . Stalin would never be able to have us back. . . . Our lives might be spared but the stigma of traitor attached to us would never be removed.

Selborne suggested that it might be possible to resettle the Russians. He had spoken to Free French leaders who thought a place might be found for them in Madagascar or other under-populated colonies. Once they were sure that they would not be sent back to face the Soviet Union, they would accept the policy of forcible repatriation which, when it became known, would cause a great outcry in this country as well as in America. . . . And as for the moral aspect of the problem, Selborne's position was a firm one: "The prospect of sending back many thousands of men to die, either by execution or in Siberia, must be repellent to every Englishman."

As soon as Eden received this letter he scribbled a note to his officials in the Foreign Office: "What do you say to all this? It doesn't deal with the point, if these men don't go to go? We don't know where here." He seemed to be hinting that Selborne's arguments were

unsound and that some way must be found to avoid the inconvenience of having to house and feed large numbers of Russians who were unwilling to go home.

The Foreign Office duly began analysing Selborne's letter, and subjecting it to criticism. The evidence showed, they claimed, that many of the prisoners were begging to be put in touch with Soviet representatives and returned to the motherland. This was true as far as it went. Many of them were indeed loyal. (But almost all of these, once home, paid for their loyalty with terms in the camps.) But others were openly opposed to Stalin's regime, and others still were protesting their loyalty only because they thought they would probably be sent home anyway and wanted to redeem themselves in their authorities' eyes.

Manderstam went to see Christopher Warner, the official then responsible for the Soviet desk in the Foreign Office, and some angry scene ensued in which the two men argued about the truth of the facts in Selborne's letter. In the end Warner ordered Manderstam out of his office and made an official complaint about him which SOE rejected. He then wrote a scathing memorandum: "I know the SOE officer who provided the first report and he has been in touch with this department. I doubt whether he is the right person to carry out an objective interrogation. He is a Russian-speaking Balt and

does not make the impression of being trained at sifting evidence."

It was one of the tragedies of the war, this hostility between SOE and the Foreign Office, which is described in detail by many senior SOE officers as well as the official SOE historian, Professor Michael Foot. "The Foreign Office disliked us because we were set up outside their control and in rivalry to their own secret service", one leading SOE man has said. Professor Foot writes: "Plenty of trouble for the Foreign Office was caused by SOE activities in various parts of the world, and senior diplomats as a rule regarded the organization with disdain, as an ungentlemanly body it was better to keep clear of."

Warner was certainly wrong, both about the letter and about the SOE. No one seriously believes now that the Russian prisoners were exaggerating, either about their sufferings in Germany or about the fate they awaited them in Russia. And Manderstam himself had by 1974 succeeded in building up a chemical engineering business worth many millions of pounds, thus proving surely that he was capable of being objective and of sifting evidence. But in 1944 he was a young man, and more readily believed. Also his minister, Anthony Eden, had far more political influence than Selborne.

Warner did not share Selborne's sympathy for the prisoners. "These men have been serving in the German forces and we have no evidence but their own that this was against their will. I think we should be careful not to become sentimental about them."

This advice made its way up the chain of command to Eden, who had his agreement, adding a request for a draft letter to Selborne "to whom I suppose a reply is due."

Meanwhile Selborne had sent the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, a shortened version of his letter to Eden, and Churchill's initial reaction was sympathetic. "I think we should consider this matter, and the point raised by (Selborne) should certainly be reconsidered. . . . I think these men were tried beyond their strength."

But Eden long butted. He had to have a question mark over the fact that it was the Russian who wanted by force if it was not for the German military formation of which it had been revelling agreed with cannot afford about this."

"We surely permanently a number of th continued, to them would ca with the Sov We have no to do this and the motives. But we are tressly from the ernments on d this would ar suspensions. . . . of our whate allied governm the Soviet Gov as regard u nationals."

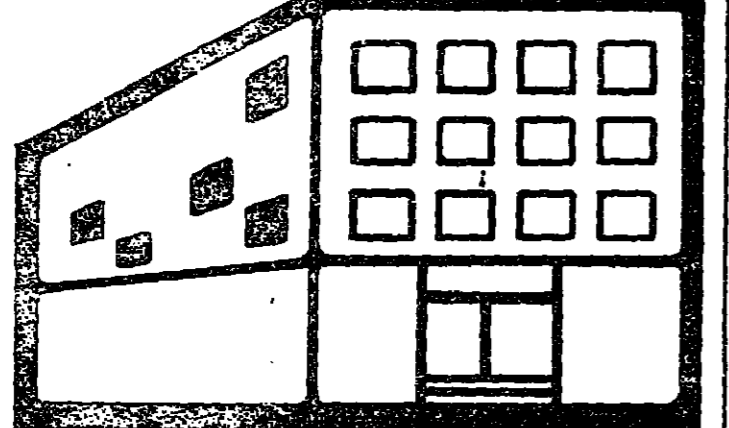
Eden's final the most compo one. There wa large numbers American pris in Eastern Ger the Red Army quickly towards the Germa shortly overan them. Many in such a prospect wrote: "It is n that they should for and return possible. For th to a great ext good will, and if culty over retu their own natu it will reflect ad willingness to be to us our own p



1943: Mr Eden and Mr Molotov meet in Moscow.

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The promise and the danger of the new Algeria

The twentieth anniversary of the outbreak of Algeria's revolution against French rule was celebrated on November 1 with particular éclat in Algiers, in the presence of all the Presidents and potentates of Arab and non-aligned countries.

What struck me was that the country at long last seemed to have come to terms with its past, and with France and the outside world. People were more relaxed and confident, less tense and aggressive than I had known them. Algerians are beginning to view themselves with a little more detachment and objectivity. I was surprised, for instance, to hear a senior official readily admit that the situation in agriculture gave cause for concern.

The reason for this new self-confidence is that in the past few years Algeria has been winning all her gambles one by one. She defied the French oil companies in 1969, she won them the French government, and she got full control of her resources two years later. She launched an ambitious second Four-Year Plan this year, which appeared beyond her capacity to finance, and she quashed the oil price cartel, and she rescued herself, in terms of economic efficiency and achievement, as the leader of the Arab world.

In the 12 years since independence she has pulled herself up by her bootstraps out of the chaotic conditions created by the mass exodus of French administrators, technicians, teachers and experts. Life is

still very tough for the majority of Algerians. Only one in three of the working population is fully employed. The galloping birth rate is one of the highest in the world. But the country is definitely a going concern.

President Houari Boumedienne is something of a Cromwellian figure—a "soldier-made" tough and austere. He is only, and had only made his mark as chief of staff of the Algerian liberation forces when he succeeded Mr Ahmed ben Bellah in 1965. With his blend of cautious realism, and indigenous socialism, coupled with a strong sense of Islamic tradition and nationalism, he has consolidated his moral and political position among his own people and far beyond the circle of non-aligned countries in the past nine years. He has come to be regarded in western capitals as an element of stability in a shifting Arab landscape.

Since the revolt of Colonel Zbiri in 1967, his authority has been unchallenged, save for occasional outbreaks of rumbling and grumbling among students and intellectuals. All leaders of the revolution who might challenge his position are either dead or in exile. Mr Raba Bitat, now a minister of state, is the only survivor of the six so-called "Sons of All Saints Day" who led the revolt of 1954. There is no organized opposition in the country worthy of the name. The students, the trade unions, the peasants are quiescent. The population is politically apathetic. The only real power is

in the hands of the army and the political security services. President Boumedienne maintains his position, it is because they are on his side.

His election to the chairmanship of the Conference of Non-aligned Countries last year, and that of Mr Abdel Aziz Bouteflika to the Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly this year, has given Algeria power and influence in world councils out of all proportion to her economic weight or position in the Arab world. She has used it repeatedly to support what she calls "just causes" like the creation of a Palestine state and, more recently, to propose an informal summit of oil producers which will probably take place in Algiers before the end of the year. Always in the van of the opposition to any limitation of oil prices and production—she needs all the revenue from her oil and gas to finance her ambitious economic plans—the Algerians have proposed stabilization of oil prices at the present level, indexed to that of imported raw materials and capital goods.

In fact, the second four-year economic plan is based on calculations that the price of oil will remain between now and 1978, and will go up only to the extent the cost of imports rises. Since the increase in oil prices since October 1973 has meant for Algeria is clear from the fact that whereas the first plan was financed to the extent of 30 per cent by oil, the second will be covered to the tune of 90 per cent by

oil exports—excluding natural gas, of which Algeria will become the world's greatest exporter by 1980.

This sudden affluence, however, will not mean an immediate improvement in the lot of the 14,500,000 Algerians, nearly 50 per cent of whom are under 15, and three quarters of whom live on the land. The new economic plan maintains the same objectives of but an out industrialization as the first, with a slightly greater emphasis on housing and education. But agriculture remains a poor cousin with 14 per cent of total investment. It is the Algeria of tomorrow which President Boumedienne is building at a breakneck speed. The older generation, which 20 years ago was called upon to die for national independence, must now sacrifice itself to economic independence. The one cannot be secured without the other, in his view. His proud boast is that by 1982, the country will have emerged from underdevelopment as an industrialized country, capable of coping with a population three times as great as the present one.

There is no place in this scheme of things for self-indulgence. Consumption, in the eyes of Mr Abdesselam, the energetic Minister for Economic Affairs, is a very secondary consideration, and the shop windows of the capital have that same drab appearance one found in East Germany 10 years ago. But President Boumedienne is an idealist. He is convinced that he can produce from his own

people the necessary main- springs of efficiency and purposefulness without the incentive of national capitalism. The second phase of land reform, which involves the nationalization of 1,500,000 hectares of privately owned land, and affects some 16,000 owners, had begun at a slow tempo in 1973. It was not dictated by economic considerations, but was regarded by the President, himself a countryman, as an essential measure of social justice towards the 900,000 landless fellahs, neglected for the past 10 years. It has hurt many private interests, even in the ranks of the party, the army, and the government; and provoked discontent and criticism. But it will go on along with the realization of a firm, along the Yugoslav pattern, through the introduction of workers' control.

More serious than the discontent is the further decline in agricultural production which the land reform has provoked. Algerian agriculture has suffered for the past two years from a lack of incentive with neither the stick of colonialism nor the carrot of the "colons" to goad it on.

Some people in government think that the essential path to reform is through the nationalization of land but through the even more intensive development of industry, which would reduce the agricultural population. But for philosophic reasons of having his way, he also feels that the party, the

Charles H

The Times Diary

Five elephants an hour a bit slow

Karl, one of the Germans in our grip, was first to make the obvious pun in a circle. A private joke when he said "I think the only elephants we shall see tomorrow will be pink ones." Then he added generally: "You can use that in your column, it does not work in German. There we talk about seeing white mice."

The train arrived exactly on schedule at 6 am and the authorities had begun to wake up 90 minutes before that, so it was a rather delicate group of observers who arrived at the round-up site at 7.30. That was when the event was launched with a series of brightly coloured daytime fireworks, whose special trick was to resemble the animals we were going to watch—slow and bump. It took 10 hours to cover the distance.

The sleeping car was made in Japan and was of a design I had not met before. Pairs of passengers sat facing each other on both sides of the central corridor. For sleeping, each pair of seats converted into a folded bunk, while a top bunk bolted down from the ceiling.

Each bunk was separated from the next by a thin, dark green curtain. Thus when all the passenger were finally in bed, neatly stacked on either side of the corridor, it had something of the appearance of a mobile, rocking mortuary.

This condition of total repose, however, took a long time to achieve. Our Anglo-German group of six was supplemented by another dozen or so reporters, and travel agents from Europe, Australia and America, and there were also fee-paying tourists on the train. Thus, the corridor was the scene throughout most of the night of many attempts to foster international intimacy, with the aid of deceptively mild-tasting local whisky drunk from paper cups.

creatures had to pick up a series of objects in their trunks and place them in a circle. A few riders fell off.

Then we saw elephants playing football, have a tug of war, then taking part in war games with soldiers camouflaged by holding token tree branches in front of their faces. To add variety, between elephant acts there were folk dances, in one of which the dancers were dressed as grasshoppers. The production lasted four hours, and if it had a fault it was that it lacked pace. But I suppose there is no way of making elephants move faster between acts.

It was accompanied by an outpouring of remorseless jollity from an American commentator who, when he was not giving the most intimate details of an elephant's sex life, spent his time in a quite fruitless attempt at preventing photographers from milling around with the elephants, ignoring the instructions in their programme.

To send us on our way, the commentator advised us on things we could buy from the stalls surrounding the arena. The wooden seats which act as saddles for stable between now and 1978, he opined, make excellent stands for a television set. "Boy", he enthused, "are they a talking point when you get back home." I restrained myself from getting one of those, but did invest in a wide-brimmed straw hat, decorated in pink, which helped protect me from the intermittent rain. I look forward to getting it home and

Noted jokes

During his 27 years with the Press Association, John Morecroft led a double life. By day he was chief of the association's Old Bailey reporting staff and by night he was their chief diner-out. "They knew they could always count on me to cover a dinner—I'd do about two a week—because the Old Bailey usually rises at five and after that I was free."

Morecroft, who retired two years ago, has now produced a book of after-dinner jokes, based on his evenings at Mansion House and Crutchen, called *White Tie Tales*. It is selling so well that the publishers have commissioned a second book on the same lines.

He used the same notebooks to cover trials as he did to cover dinners. "Jokes were crammed between the most horrific crime stories", he says. "I used to mark the jokes in the margin of the notebook during a speech and then transcribe them to another notebook the next day. I thought they might turn out to be of interest." The first story he covered at the Old Bailey was the trial of Lord Haw-Haw, but that "was not very funny."

At City dinners he always wore white tie and tails—his own—and they now hang in a wardrobe at his Dover home. "There is not much use of them here and I don't dress for dinner", he says.

HELL
GODS-EXPEITION

Today's sign indicates the freight office at Hell, north of Trondheim, Norway. The Reverend George Azzaz, the son of the picture, reports that when you get there Hell is a very dull place.

Looking up

Britain's nine new students in Peking are benefiting from better conditions fought for by their predecessors in the academic year which ended last summer.

The students—including three girls—have access to the library at their institute, an issue which provoked a row between the authorities and British students who lived there last year. They have also been offered the chance to room with Chinese students, a privilege which was not even granted to the others.

The new British language students are from Leeds, Cambridge and other universities. Their interests range from scientific development to the administration of the Ching dynasty, but they seem united in their enthusiasm for the experience of living at least a year in Peking.

Two girl students who went through the last year were then allowed to make up residence for a further academic year in Shanghai and the exchange programme is generally looking up. "But the Chinese

authorities are still granting reciprocal exchange for the Chinese students."

Councillor Peat has been re-elected as representative on the recreation committee of the Association of Members of the Authorities.

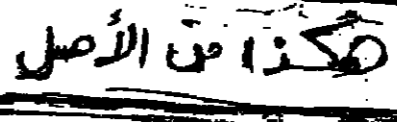
New pal

In June I reported the fortune of Desmond Guinness, who submitted a word palindrome to the *Irish Times*. It had been told that it had exceeded by a 60-word from the United States. I determined to capture the record for Britain, and his composition may do that. He has extended the record to 950 words, though some of them are not words (rabot, tombeo, rocella, etc.) and I am prepared to accept they exist. Although it is a kind of zaniness, more than half is a list of objects.

"A long palindrome writes," is almost certainly make strange reading starts at the end, thus the first half backwards, way a number of unhappily crypt in but not care.

Unpleasant indeed, vicious, like this: "Ev' parish apallion at a man ri' at all or party; raid a yard, or snipe fine Italians." Again: "I had sleek Cragan; at last, job a bomb, yak, mar pagoda, loot rrcv." Glad to see, least has the grace to m' villainus foreigner."





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A CLOSED SHOP FOR JOURNALISTS

aintenance of freedom of in newspapers depends on a broad principle, but a series of detailed treatments without which free speech is impaired, everyone connected with papers has to make his own view, positively as well as negatively. Proprietors can use the freedom of the press asking their newspapers' interests of personal power, and also threaten if they are not commercially efficient, printing trade unions can demand the freedom of the press or business, or if they dictate what shall appear in newspapers they printers threaten press freedom if they try to use their rising power as a form of orship. Editors threaten freedom if they do not give proportion of space to views with which they agree, or to articles by opponents of their papers' views.

All these groups from time to time fall short of their responsibilities; a free press balances itself partly by one newspaper dressing the errors of another. We all have blind spots but we not all have the same blind spots. The question now is whether the spread of journalists' closed shops would damage the perfect but rare and remarkable freedom of the British press. We consider on three grounds that it would. We do not take this view because we are against the National Union of Journalists, which varies from the highly responsible to the relatively negligent in about the same degree as the newspapers which its members serve.

The first issue is the position of editors. The freedom of the British press has come to depend on the relatively modern tradition that an editor must be independent. He can be dismissed, but he cannot be told what to do. This is not the case on the strictly proprietorial papers, where the proprietor is therefore the real editor. This independence is a responsible charge on the editor, who is employed to conduct the newspaper and not to indulge his own ego. If the editor can be required to be a member of a trade union against his will, his independence is thereafter circumscribed by union rulings. The union may behave very well, but the editor ceases to be as free as he should be.

The second ground is the limitation on the freedom of members of the staff of a newspaper. The independence of a good newspaper cannot be supported except by the independence of judgment and mutual respect of all the journalists working on it. A good editor will often defer to the judgment of his colleagues. A newspaper ought to be the combined work of independent men, expressing their sense of the truth. It should be a college and not a fist. If an editor's judgment must be free of compulsion, so should the judgment of his fellow journalists. Indeed the value of such men to a union is precisely that they do join it as free men and not as conscripts. Mr Ken Morgan has reiterated the opposition of the NUJ to censorship by trade unions, but in these matters one must look not only to intention but to power.

The third ground is the political freedom of outside contri-

Taking politics out of agriculture

From Mr Francis Pym, Conservative MP for Cambridgeshire

Sir, Lord Rothschild's article in today's Times (November 15) should be greeted as an important contribution to the political management of the British agricultural industry. In a few well-chosen and characteristic sentences, Lord Rothschild sets out what is rapidly becoming reality, the existence of a world food crisis. The present Rome FAO conference bears witness to this.

Britain stands to suffer more than any other developed nation from such a crisis. Already we are acutely aware of the high world market prices that we have to pay in order to make up the deficit between home-produced food and consumer requirements. Last year it was wheat, maize, soya beans and rice which rocketed in price as world demand outstripped supply; this year it is sugar, cocoa and fishmeal.

Britain has now reached a watershed in facing its greatest supply of food. Our past agricultural policies were formulated in an age of cheap and plentiful imports of food from foreign countries. To quote Lord Rothschild: "That is no longer true, and never will be again."

Our national agricultural industry has demonstrated in recent decades its own potential in the production of food. Whatever criteria are used, gross product, investment, productivity, or output per head, British agriculture stands out as a success story. It is not only one of our major industries, but also compares favourably with all other agricultural industries throughout the world.

It is ironic therefore, as well as dangerous, that today British livestock farming is facing its greatest collapse for years. The case for the expansion of home-produced food is overwhelming, not only in terms of ensuring an adequate and increasing supply of food for our people, but also as an integral key in our national economy. In our fight against inflation and in our efforts to reduce the United Kingdom balance of payments burden. And yet we now see our rural economy crumbling, agricultural incomes falling, livestock farmers facing ruin, and unrest among the rural population.

I do not wish to apportion blame in this letter for the way this situation has been allowed to deteriorate. But that cannot be avoided and will be done elsewhere. What I am concerned of is the truth of Lord Rothschild's statement that "British agriculture should be extricated from its present predicament."

In the British parliamentary system that is difficult and perhaps impossible. Today's article is a good example since half of it is devoted to a justified critique of one particular paper on the subject. Nevertheless the need for the minimum of controversy and maximum of agreement about the best long-term strategy to be followed in the future is obvious. By its very nature, agriculture cannot survive sudden changes of course. It must have long-term stability of policy. The

provision of this, if I were minister, would be my prime aim.

In the months before the election and during the campaign, the Conservative platform was based on an approach to the future in consultation and conjunction with all parties concerned and connected with farming and food supply. In the debate on the Address I spoke of the need for a united approach.

At the AGM of the Country Landowners' Association on October 30, I put it thus: "I believe the situation has now become so serious that all those involved in the industry must come together and act together, regardless of political affiliation or any other consideration. It is not easy to take politics out of anything, but all I am interested in is seeing that the best possible strategy for agriculture, in the circumstances that now exist, is identified and set in hand without delay."

In my view, this theme is right for agriculture and right for the nation.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS PYM,
House of Commons.

Safeguarding freedom of press

From the President of the Institute of Journalists

Sir, The very situation against which I warned in my presidential address to the Institute of Journalists last September, has come about. The National Union of Journalists is refusing on some papers to handle the copy of a contributor who is not a member of it; industrial action is being taken by newspaper editors and editors are themselves striving to bring out their papers; and the support of the printing unions is being sought and in some cases obtained.

A wage claim is ostensibly the excuse for this action; in fact the real motive is to ensure that the press exclusively in the hands of the NUJ which would, in collaboration with the print unions, decide what should be published or withheld. In fact, it would censor the news and be the sole arbiter of what the public should be allowed to know.

Fortunately there is disquiet about this even in the ranks of the NUJ and there have been considerable defections from it, with members seeking to join this institute, and these are still continuing.

Coming as it does at this time, the action of the NUJ may, in fact, be a blessing in disguise, for it can only serve to alert the public to the present situation which exists to the freedom of the press, so that a massive demand may be forthcoming for safeguards to be built into the Protection of Employment Bill which is being prepared and which, in the form envisaged by the Government, would only legalize the closed shop and ensure the ultimate success of present NUJ tactics.

The present industrial action by the NUJ switches on a bright red light which will, I hope, cause even Labour members of Parliament to stop and observe the tyranny into which this road leads and block it while there is still time.

Every single person, inside or outside Parliament, who values liberty should assess the situation at its true value and demand that freedom and therefore their own—should be safeguarded beyond any possibility of either legal or illegal erosion.

Yours, etc,
CYNRIC MYTTON-DAVIES,
President,
The Institute of Journalists,
1 Whitehall Place, SW1.

freedom of the press. Unfortunately it was based on a total misconception of the facts which led to our being sacked on November 13.

We are surprised that the editorial director of the company which controls the *Kenish Times* is not aware of the true position, powers and role of district editors employed by his group.

Kenish Times district editors do not have the full control or legal responsibility that the word "editor" will imply for your readers. The *Kenish Times* is a series of nine local newspapers with many pages common to all of them and several pages appearing in all the papers within individual London boroughs. The overall editorial control and legal responsibility for this complex operation is in the hands of an editorial director and an executive editor.

The executive editor has at all times accepted the right of these two people to write the editorial commentaries in which Mr Herbert referred and which they carry out the duties implied in their positions irrespective of whether or not they are members of the NUJ.

Our chapel was also perfectly willing to offer means of publishing local commentaries under the supervision of non-NUJ district editors. The *Kenish Times* management refused to accede to this.

Mr Herbert's letter omits two other fundamental points. The chapel excluded two editorial commentaries written by non-NUJ district editors from their "blacklist" policy until the position of district editors had been ruled upon by the NUJ. These commentaries and the papers for which they were written were published last week.

Two of the district editors are NUJ members. They had written their local commentaries, which would have been handled by chapel staff, but they could not have been published. The management, without reference to these district editors, unilaterally refused to allow these papers to appear. The freedom of these two district editors—which Mr Herbert says he is so anxious to protect—was taken away by the management.

Having been instructed by our general secretary that non-NUJ district editors' commentaries should not be handled, our members were faced with the choice of disobeying that instruction or being dismissed without notice or payment in lieu.

Yours faithfully,
LEON REIS, clerk to the NUJ
Kenish Times Chapel,
80 Erith Road,
Bexleyheath,
Kent.

PRESIDENT FORD VISITS JAPAN

North-east Asia has never been allowed the geographical identity or the political importance that has been accorded for the past twenty-five years to south-east Asia. Yet it has become in the past two years a one vital to the success of American foreign policy. The visit that takes President Ford to Tokyo today, thence to Seoul and to Vladivostok to meet Mr Brezhnev, followed by Dr Kissinger's knight's move to Peking, will underline that importance. It has been plain ever since Dr Kissinger's first secret visit to Peking in July, 1971, that China had been brought into a parallelism of power of which Japan, the United States and the Soviet Union formed the other three points. Any change in the relationship of any two of these four powers would inevitably be felt at the other corners.

No such change is expected from President Ford's current visit. In Japan he is looking for a better and a warmer mutual understanding. Seen from Washington the alliance with western Europe at one end of the Eurasian landmass is matched by the alliance with Japan at the other. On the stability of these partnerships the simultaneous détente with the Soviet Union and with China is conducted. However critical of the United States the Europeans may be from time to time Dr Kissinger admits that the relationship is a family one and always will be. With Japan it is not and cannot

essily become so. Each side has its own traditions of behaviour and outlook and neither of late have made for mutual confidence. The shock of Dr Kissinger's secret visit to Peking has not been entirely dissipated in Japan. It will be President Ford's first aim to reassure the Japanese of their importance as allies.

On the surface the prospect is not promising. Already considerable demonstrations in Tokyo against the visit have awakened memories of the violence that succeeded in getting President Eisenhower's trip cancelled for security reasons in 1960. But the conditions then, only eight years after the post-war occupation of Japan had ended, were very different from those today. While all the opposition parties have taken part in the demonstrations they have done so each for different reasons. In so far as they are united at all it is not in opposition to the American relationship so much as to the growing weakness of Mr Tanaka's position. They believe that an occasion that he hopes may strengthen his position can be turned against him, even to the point of driving him to resignation.

Nevertheless even if the demonstrations are a symptom of internal political conditions it must be discouraging to President Ford's purpose. And it must be admitted that the Japanese have lately shifted from their wholehearted line-up with the Americans. Last year's oil

crisis brought sharply home to the Japanese the price they could pay for too close an adherence to American attitudes. A switch from Israel to the Arab side was hurriedly arranged. Since then Japan has been more ready than before to exhibit a fellow-feeling for the third world nations. Yet the basic attachment to the United States for sound economic and strategic reasons still holds. The American policy of détente with the Soviet Union and China has Japanese support.

Yet the doubt remains that the visit can be productive. If Mr Tanaka proves to be a lame-duck prime minister the personal relationship which President Ford emphasises will go for little. As a President who has travelled overseas far less than any of his recent predecessors he can usefully get the feel of the country at a time of national self-questioning. He can assuage wounded pride where it still survives and may allay some fears. The chief of these cropped up last month with agitation over American vessels entering Japanese ports allegedly without having first unloaded their nuclear weapons. Nuclear pacifism is not simply an issue dear to opposition parties in Japan; it touches the national nerves—and naturally enough. Nevertheless Japan's economic ties with the western world remain powerful and lasting. They remain the best guarantee of the American partnership.

From the Secretary-General of the Country Landowners' Association

Sir, In your powerful article in your issue of November 15, Lord Rothschild rightly asks that agriculture should cease to be a political football.

Agriculture needs stable long-term planning and heavy capital expenditure, particularly on the livestock side. It cannot get them if one government decision after another affecting the industry is determined by political caprice and by the desire of each party on coming to power to undo the actions of its predecessor.

The CLA, which is specially interested in long-term capital investment, has pressed for some time now for a standing, all-party Select Committee on agriculture. It was encouraged by the recent election campaign to see that at long last the importance of agriculture was fully recognized in all party manifestoes. On the day devoted to agriculture during the debate on the Queen's Speech, members from all parts of the House of Commons showed their concern for the industry and their willingness to help it in its plight.

A Standing Committee would be able to examine the problems of agriculture objectively, on the basis of all the available evidence. It would represent the Government, the Government of the day and the general public of the measures necessary to bring steady expansion, properly balanced between the different sectors of the industry. Confidence in the long-term future of farming would mean that producers and consumers alike were much less at the mercy of violent swings in prices and short-term political expedients which soon make matters worse.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES DOUGLAS, Secretary,
7 Swallow Street, W1.

Trade unions can claim to be democratic, though the machinery breaks with age. For example, members of the TUC General Council are elected to their positions of power by "millions of votes" at the annual congress. They do not represent their own unions on the general council but are answerable only to the annual congress. No intermediate body has the right to influence or question their decisions and, indeed, this would be difficult, since the proceedings of the general council are confidential.

There is no perfect solution to the imperfections of trade union democracy, since it depends on imperfect men and women, most of whom lack an interest in politics. What is important is that we should all, including the trade union leaders themselves, recognize that the grass roots from which they derive their power are very poorly nourished. And this applies not only to trade unions.

The Labour Party, despite Mr Ron Hayward's claim that it is "very democratic" is also democratic by default and subject to control by zealots. I am given to understand that the Conservative Party is also democratically imperfect. Only Parliament can claim, despite the imperfections of the electoral machinery, to be nearly democratic since nearly 80 per cent of the electorate cast their votes.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GORDON,
Little Canterbury, The Haven,
Billinghurst, Sussex,
November 11.

From Mr Leon Reis

Sir, Mr Herbert's letter (*The Times*, November 15) referring to the instant dismissal of members of the *Kenish Times* NUJ chapel was an admirable defence of the

Thus, the only witnesses who could have cleared Naumov of the charge of illegally taking lecture tickets from the NUJ were the expert witness at Naumov's trial was none other than Dr Snezhnevsky who reiterated his well-known conviction that parapsychology is a pseudo-science based on idealism and mysticism; and that it was the presence of the numerous witnesses who testified to the fact that they had bought the tickets for Naumov's lectures from the club's director or his assistant were ignored.

All these circumstances suggest that there may have been a miscarriage of justice. It is also reported that Naumov, who is no longer young and is in poor health, has been subjected to very harsh treatment, that he has been beaten, and that he was interrogated while suffering from pneumonia and a temperature of 40°C. We very much hope that there will be an official investigation into the circumstances under which Mr Naumov was accused and sentenced, and that any harassment of his former collaborators will cease.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BELOFF, President of the Society for Psychical Research,
D. M. A. LEGGETT, Vice-Chancellor, The University of Surrey,
J. E. PRIESTLEY, E. R. DODDS, Oxford,
ROBERT H. THOUSSE, Cambridge,
D. WEST, Cambridge,
TED BASTIN, Cambridge,
NORMAN COHN, University of Sussex,
ROBERT HARVEY, Oxford,
JOSEF SCHUBERT, University of Melbourne, University of Saskatchewan,
FRANCIS HUXLEY, C. W. K. MUNDLE, University College of North Wales,
A. J. ELLISON, City University, ANITA GREGORY, Polytechnic of North London,
As from Society for Psychical Research, 10, Adam and Eve Mews, W8, November 5.

David Wood

Joseph expressly declines the honour.

So far, so good. Nevertheless, Mr Heath has regained the initiative. He has lifted the immediate pressure created by his Westminster critics and has taken control of the timetable. He has, on auspicious grounds, called in the Conservative peers and the National Union to redress the balance of the old Douglas-Home electoral system, so that members of the 1922 Committee can see both their flanks being turned.

For once the system of leadership election drafted by Sir Alec Douglas-Home in 1965 is called into question and put in commission for revision, it is natural that the peers and extra-parliamentary party workers should clear their sense that the 1922 Committee has no more than an "exclusive magic circle" whose exclusive right to evolve the party leader must be challenged. Already, within the 1922 executive, there are signs that the challenge can be resisted only with risk. Would the peers be satisfied with 12 representatives added to the 1922's electoral constituency? Would the outside rank and file be appeased if the area chairmen were added to the electoral register? What about the Conservative women, and the adopted candidates? In the end, democracy is everybody, and members of the 1922 Committee want to go on being somebody.

It is easy to say loftily, as politicians, academics and commentators habitually do, that a party leader must constitutionally draw his authority from within the House of Commons. But the doctrine can be made to sound dubiously party by those outside the magic circle; and experienced chief whips and party managers like Mr Heath and Mr Whitelaw will know how to play on human nature, if it suits their book.

Nor should another point be overlooked: it is certainly not overlooked here and there within the 1922 Committee. If it is so grievous fault in a party leader to lose a general election—and it is—then the logic must be that the survivors of a debacle at the polls, forming the diminished constituency for the elec-

not to indulge their own prepossessions about men and policy but rather the prepossessions of voters who fell by the wayside. It is arguable that on such an issue as Europeanism some strong, even extreme Tories refused to give their vote. It has, on the other hand, most of the last votes occur at the margin of party commitment. An important test of Mr Heath's leadership, or of any colourable challenger, is rather that he should pull in the marginal votes than that he should make doubly sure of votes that have never been in doubt. It was part of the genius of Baldwin and Mr Harold Macmillan that they passed such a test; and in more recent years, before he became an Ulsterman, we have seen Mr Enoch Powell showing the same flair.

A colourable challenger? There is nobody yet in the lists against Mr Heath, and the most actively critical members of the 1922 Committee either name no name or tentatively suggest a name that carries no self-conviction. That, for the time being, is an important part of the strength of Mr Heath's position.

Nobody even states the requirements for the situation that may become—well, not exactly vacant but auctionable. In one sense a gap has opened up between Mr Heath and the rest of the collective leadership. Iain Macleod, Mr Maudling, Mr Powell, Mr Barber: none is at call to come to the aid of the party. Below Mr Heath are loyalists, lieutenants like Mr Whitelaw, Mr Carr, Mr Peter Walker, who continue to fly Mr Heath's flag. It should not be assumed that none of them would stand against Mr Heath in any circumstances, though it may be taken for granted that they would do so only after reaching an understanding with Mr Heath. They illustrate the truism that successful palace revolutions begin around the throne, and the 1922 Committee's hatchet men did not make sure that the throne had been isolated.

And the pourparlers? In an English fashion, I expect the defunct magic circle will now reform and work very felicitously through the democratic procedures that were

Democracy in trade unions

From Mr Michael Gordon

Sir, Mr Fellowes (*The Times*, November 11) questions the democratic process behind decision-making in trade unions. May I, as a former steward and chairman of works committees, once a "red under the bed", offer a very simple analysis of a complicated situation.

Most trade unions are democratic by default, the default of most trade unions. Generally, a very small proportion of members (5 per cent) attend a regular branch meeting, except where they are grouped in large factories or mining villages and unless pay or working conditions are urgently on the agenda. Meetings are tedious and time consuming, especially where members are widely dispersed, so that enthusiasm or zeal will induce them to attend.

Zealots find compensation for the tedium in the satisfaction of conquering the footholds of power. They elect zealots as officers and as delegates to the general council of the democratic pyramid where policies are formed and decisions taken. Delegates are rarely mandated.

In the days of Bevin and Citrine, when trade unions were relatively weak, democracy by default favoured the Right. Now, when the democratic pyramid has become a reward, zealots of the Left can win and retain power without great difficulty. In return for winning good pay awards they are given carte blanche to further their own ideological causes.

From Mr F. S. A. Doran

Sir, Having been immersed in the statistics of hospital staffing for the past 10 years I find it depressing that the Council of the National Association of Clinical Tutors should so corporately naive as to believe that this very difficult problem can be solved by dismissing all our foreign graduates and replacing them with United Kingdom graduates (letter, November 8).

On the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Medical Education it was decided that the number of United Kingdom graduates should rise from 1,836 per annum (the 1965-69 figure) to 3,150 by 1975-79, thence to 3,850 in 1980. To accelerate this expansion before the profession has decided on the future pattern of hospital staffing would be an act of supreme folly, for which the students now entering the medical schools would probably have to pay.

The clinical tutors in their haste to get rid of the 1,148 foreign doctors below the grade of consultant have made no attempt to discover if the NHS in its present form contains enough permanent posts to employ the extra British doctors they want to train.

In 1975 there ought to be 10,122 consultant posts in England and Wales, and possibly 24,253 posts as a principle in general practice, a total in the NHS of 34,375. Given the known rate of retirement and adding the 4 per cent annual expansion of the consultant grade, the Combined Training Schemes

Doctors from abroad

graduates out of a total of 2,410. Nine hundred and thirty-six United Kingdom graduates, next year, will be surplus to the requirement of the training schemes.

By 1978, when the United Kingdom medical schools will produce 3,150 graduates, the Combined Training Schemes will be able to absorb only 1,556. For the other 1,594 there will be next to no hope of a permanent post anywhere in the NHS unless the staffing structure as a whole, but particularly in the hospital service, is radically re-arranged.

I hope the clinical tutors will now sit down and do a few sums.

Yours truly,
F. S. A. DORAN,
Past President, Worcester & Hereford Branch of the British Medical Association,
Bromsgrove General Hospital,
Bromsgrove, Worcestershire,
November 9.

contributory factor, but I think the fear of Government interference and the practical difficulty of cutting tree-lined hedgerows, were main responsible.

The Romans gave free corn to the people and we know what happened to the Romans. I do hope that the land leaving his vista open to the lake, but I urge him to avoid setting State aid.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. MCKECHNIE,
Old Rectory,
Bradley Green,
Near Feckenham,
Worcestershire.

Mr Heath regains the initiative

Last Thursday's meeting of the 1922 Committee showed that without Lady Macbeth to put some thrust behind the dagger Macbeth would have had a last act in which all parties settled bloodlessly on talks about talks. It would not have made much of a melodrama. It was not much of a meeting. Mr Heath stood there, at bay though at ease, and offered pourparlers about the date and circumstances in which he would make himself available to his assassins. He prescribed only one condition: He would have four advisers of whom two would be his closest lieutenants from the palace guard and a third a well-wisher.

Members of the 1922 Committee, high and low, professed themselves well satisfied with the arrangements, up to a point with reason. Having failed to frighten Mr Heath into immediate resignation and resubmission to the electoral procedure, his critics are now rescued from the difficulty of being unable to do nothing without his assent. He has now offered them a vague timetable for a no less vague course of action. Mr William Whitelaw, the former party chairman and now the leader of the Conservative peers; Mr Edward du Cann, the former party chairman and now the chairman of the 1922 Committee, and Sir John Taylor, chairman of the extra-parliamentary rank and file, should complete their soundings and give their advice on a revised election procedure before Christmas, and by Easter (it is suggested) Mr Heath could fight it out in a ballot box challenge. Any challenger

Doctors from abroad

From Mr H. C. Prestige

Sir, It must now simply stick out a mile that only simpletons like the undersigned, on encountering a word new to them, consult a dictionary. Mine defines simplistic as "of pertaining to simple or simple". I am skilled in medicinal herbs or simples.

Yours simply,
H. C. C. PRESTIGE,
2 Moorlands,
Wilderness Road.

Planting trees

From Mr A. R. McKechnie

Sir, Tree planting projects are always interesting (Mr A. J. Methuen, *The Times*, November 2) but my experience indicates that most landowners or owner-farmers are reluctant to provide trees for "the people" even if financial assistance is provided.

Here in Worcestershire disease has depleted nearly all the elms and the appearance of the countryside has altered enormously but numerous self-planted oak and ash trees still remain. Now that most of the stricken trees have been removed an unexpected benefit has resulted which both "the people" and the landowners can enjoy, namely, many more uninterrupted views of the Malverns, Breton and the few other smaller hills in this otherwise flat country.

Last year the Worcestershire County Council in common with other county councils, offered a scheme called "Plant A Tree In 73" which was passed down to local parish councils to promote at grass root level. Subject to certain conditions, this scheme provided a delayed payment to landowners of £3 for each surviving tree which was planted.

This "free offer" was not a success (just as well perhaps for the ratepayers). Possibly the grant of £3 per tree, compared with the cost of £5, was too small.

A simplistic question

From Mr William E. Kearns

Sir, With regard to the experience of the Rev. E. A. Dignam, whose letter you printed on November 1: "White clover does not produce nectar in significant quantities unless the ambient temperature is 70deg F or higher. Perhaps on the day of his investigation this air temperature was below this, as it frequently is when this particular crop is in flower, and the bees which he did not see were gainfully employed elsewhere."

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM KEARNS,
5, Midholm.

Honey from road verges

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SPORT

Cricket

MCC build a winning position with one day to play

From John Woodcock Cricket Correspondent Sydney, Nov 17

After two days in which they have played their best cricket of the tour, MCC have built up a winning position against New South Wales...

Table with columns for batsmen and bowlers, including names like Turner, Luchurchi, and scores.

he was good two yards faster than he was then. I thought, Greig, too, bowled his off breaks better than at any time...



Greig: getting on terms with those who inhabit the Hill.

first time in the match. He had only one over today at his faster pace. He switched to spin at Denness's request...

The prime example of this was when they put on 254 in Bombay, with England in trouble...

Tennis

Connors expects to meet Rosewall

By Rex Bellamy Tennis Correspondent

fortune to be trapped into an association with the French and Italian ban on Connors and are among the parties involved in his case...

Golf

Jacklin pleased with his performance

Johannesburg, Nov 16.—The former British and United States Open champion, Tony Jacklin, was pleased with his form...

Racing

Interview should improve record at expense of Straight Vulgan

By Jim Snow Northern Racing Correspondent

Unlike last year there has been no slow march forward in the last eight weeks by Arthur Stephenson in his pursuit of his 100 winners in 1974/75...

French racing

Iamblichus gains victory with late run

Paris, Nov 17.—The American horse, Iamblichus, owned by George Ohrstrom, showed a burst of speed...



Stephenson: horses well forward for start of season.

Camden, South Carolina, Nov 17.—The Colonial Cup steeplechase was won by an outsider, Augustus Boy, ridden by Tommy Skiffington...

Leicester programme

- 1.0 STOUGHTON HURDLE (Div I; Novice; £204; 2m) 022-121 Mounseley (D) Mrs F. Davidson, S. Mellor, 5-12-5...

Ayr programme

- 1.15 GATEHEAD HURDLE (Div I; Novice; £204; 2m) 022-121 Mounseley (D) Mrs F. Davidson, S. Mellor, 5-12-5...

Real tennis

Ronaldson gains confidence and then control

By Our Real Tennis Correspondent

Hockey

Chichester rely on Thrift but Bromley profit

By Sydney Friskin

Oosterhuis top of the class in PGA school

Napa, California, Nov 17.—Peter Oosterhuis is in the lead after four rounds of the PGA qualifying school here.

Leicester selections

- 1.0 STOUGHTON HURDLE (Div I; Novice; £204; 2m) 022-121 Mounseley (D) Mrs F. Davidson, S. Mellor, 5-12-5...

Wetherby results

- 1.0: 1 The Sunbeam Kid (12-1) 5-11-10...

Warwick results

- 1.0: 1 The Sunbeam Kid (12-1) 5-11-10...

Cricket

ROBBINS: Sheffield Shield; Western Australia 107-100; Queensland 107-100...

French racing

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Show jumping

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THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

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AINC
tomorrow's
BUILDING
CIVIL
ENGINEERING

BSC stresses need for 'sizeable' price rises despite half-year profit of £82m

...to allow the British Corporation to introduce price increases from the beginning of next year could be the state steel undertaking deficit next year, Dr Monty Finniston, the chairman, says. A warning followed a record half profit of £82m this year.

On costs the BSC chairman said that iron ore prices—which have already increased 33 per cent since the beginning of the year—would rise again as contracts were renewed.

Scrap prices had increased by 60 per cent between April and November. Coal prices had risen by 38 per cent in October, and even the Government's commitment to eliminating nationalized industry deficit financing, a further substantial rise in the next few months could be expected.

The corporation had nevertheless achieved a cumulative saving of £20m-£30m as a result of cost economies over the past few months.

British steel basic prices were still lower than European prices, ranging from about 20 per cent to 25 per cent according to grade, he said. Although there was every indication of softening demand he did not expect a wave of price cutting similar to other occasions when market conditions had deteriorated.

The need to retain a high level of capacity was crucial to the corporation's investment programme which was originally costed at £3,000m, but on latest estimates will now cost more than £4,000m.

In the first half of its current year investment amounted to £100m. It plans to spend some £350m next year, but its proposals are awaiting government clearance.

The BSC's plan to close programmes under review which it considers an integral part of the investment plan, was announced in the House of Commons last week. The plan, which was approved by the General Election and some projects have had to be deferred.

Dr Finniston emphasized the desirability of pressing ahead

with investment in new capacity and said that the recently completed Anchor project at Scunthorpe had accounted for 19 per cent of steel produced in the first half of this year and had contributed 42 per cent towards profits.

"On the capital investment programme we cannot afford delay because other people throughout the world are building new steelworks. Steel is a growth industry," he declared.

Apart from the need to lift prices and press ahead with new investment the BSC is seriously concerned at the impact of industrial disputes on production which constrained output at a time when demand was buoyant.

The BSC planned to produce 11.1 million tonnes of steel in the first half year, but instead managed only 10.2 million tonnes. About 500,000 tonnes of the loss is ascribed to the spare production at major plants, exacerbated by shortages of coal and scrap and operational difficulties.

The corporation's poor industrial relations record is undermining its ability to secure export contracts for the first quarter of next year since potential customers are openly sceptical of the BSC's ability to meet delivery dates.

Dr Finniston has said in the past that a new approach to procedural machinery is necessary in the state steel undertaking to improve communications between management and men.

Lower Japanese output likely: Japan's steel production in the year ending next March is likely to total 115 million tonnes against 120 million last year, the Japan Iron and Steel Federation estimates.

The federation said the decline would result from a shortage of steel-making coal and a slowdown in domestic demand in the second half of the year. —Reuter.

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Dr Finniston emphasized the desirability of pressing ahead



Mr. Gordon Richardson: Talks arranged at IMF meeting.

Bank denial over aim of Kuwait visit

The Bank of England moved quickly yesterday to squish any suggestion that the visit of Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor, to Kuwait this weekend was the result of the announcement in last Tuesday's Budget that the sterling guarantees created by the Government to overseas holders were to be allowed to lapse from the end of the year.

A spokesman for the Bank said that any idea that Mr Richardson should go to Kuwait after Mr Healey's announcement was simply not true.

The visit was basically for informal discussions with bank and government officials in Kuwait, and had been arranged at the annual IMF meeting in Washington.

Although the recycling of Middle Eastern oil funds into sterling will inevitably be one topic of discussion, it seems almost certain that the decision to allow the present sterling guarantees to lapse is not a point of particular contention.

The oil-producing states are believed to have been soured on their reaction to such a decision before it was announced and are not thought to have raised any objection.

Under the terms of the guarantees, parties to the agreement are safeguarded against any fall in the value of their sterling holdings beyond prescribed limits.

The current agreement guarantees the value of sterling holdings against any depreciation in sterling against the world's other major currencies of more than an average of 18.35 per cent in the period from April 1 to December 31.

Ratification terms putting pressure on Tunnel Bill

By Business News Staff

With the French likely to ratify the Channel Tunnel treaty this week, pressures are growing on the British Government to complete the parliamentary stages on their Channel Tunnel Bill by the end of this session, otherwise considerable financial penalties will have to be faced because of the abandonment, at least in contractual terms, of the project.

The two governments' agreement with the companies building the tunnel is that the treaty, already signed, should be ratified by January 1 or the project will be deemed abandoned.

With the companies now anxiously waiting for the results of their own reassessment of increased costs, it might not be easy now to renegotiate the January date.

The considerable parliamentary opposition to the Bill which emerged in last week's debate throws some doubt on the Government's ability to get the Bill through all stages, which is likely to include new petitions against it in the House of Lords.

If the January 1 date were overstepped the tunnel companies would be faced with the problem of whether to accept the abandonment guarantees which are their legal right in favour of taking a chance on the Government's ability to get the legislation through some time in 1975.

The problem which could early arise if there were renegotiation of any kind, is whether the companies might call for a specifically higher figure to be nominated in the Bill covering the government guarantees to the Channel Tunnel Company.

The company has been raising at least 90 per cent of its development cash in the open market and the Government guarantees the loans.

The companies' own financial statements—due to be published in the next few days—checked subsequently by the government watchdog committee headed by Sir Alec Cairncross—are almost certain to push the estimated cost beyond the earliest total forecast of £846m. An additional, although substantial, forecast cost assumption has already been put forward by the company taking the 1980 overrun bill to £970m.

If timing of the tunnel were put back, or slowed in any way, inflation continuing at current rates would be bound to raise the cost of the tunnel. The company could be expected to extend protection work under the present preparatory phase two of the tunnel excavations has been going well on the British side of the Channel near Dover, and is expected to come within target costings. Access tunnels have been completed on schedule and the giant boring machine which will slice out two kilometres of the main tunnel under the sea is now being assembled.

Money supply growth accelerates but basic trend remains unclear

By Christopher Wilkins

Both definitions of the money supply accelerated during the month to the middle of October compared to the previous month, but the underlying growth trend remains unclear.

During July and August the money supply was expanding rapidly only to slow to an increase of 1 per cent during September in both the narrowly defined sense (M1) and the more broadly defined one (M3).

October saw a resumption of the earlier trend, with M1 rising by a relatively rapid 1 1/2 per cent because of a substantial increase in private sector current account deposits and a small rise in the note circulation.

Private sector deposit accounts declined, however, so that the growth in M3 was a more modest 1 per cent—albeit greater than in September.

But although October itself saw an upsurge, the three-month rolling average shows an M3 increase of only 7 per cent, the lowest rise since June when the money supply was under the most severe constraint. Taking that figure as a guideline would suggest that the Bank of England is reasonably well on target towards its stated objective of keeping the money supply growth fairly small.

The relatively slow increase in the growth of M3 is chiefly explained by an unusually small central government borrowing requirement. Holders of sterling outside the banking system, both overseas and domestic, also increased their holdings of Treasury bills, so that, for the first time since June, the banks' and discount houses' holdings of government debt declined. Holders of the public sector. Overall assets and liabilities rose by only £96m.

The banks continued to remain within the limits imposed by the supplementary special deposit system, the so-called "corset".

Against a ceiling of 14 per cent in the growth of their interest bearing liabilities, their actual increase was 6 1/2 per cent. Within that total the London Clearing Bank group were rather higher at 8 1/2 per cent.

On the other hand, the Bank points out, lending by banks to the private sector accelerated during October to show a seasonal increase of £410m. But that was below the increases of April, June and July, and would have been lower except for a further reduction in official holdings of commercial bills.

Offsetting the increase in lending to the private sector was a sharp decline in lending to the public sector. Overall assets and liabilities rose by only £96m.

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New look at central body to represent engineers

By Derek Harris

Because of the controversy over the Council of Engineering Institutions' plans to restructure the engineering profession, another and, it is hoped, final version of the proposals is now being drafted.

Agreement among the 15 chartered engineering institutions, for which CEI is the federally-organized umbrella body, is hoped for by January. But a CEI executive committee meeting has established how wide the division of opinion is among the institutions.

The division centres on a discussion paper in which the three senior institutions—the Institution of Civil Engineers, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and the Institution of Electrical Engineers—suggested the CEI should be replaced by a new body provisionally called the Institution of Engineers. The aim was to improve efficiency and create a more united front for the whole profession, including non-chartered organizations at present outside CEI.

The CEI's reply to this paper, discussed at its executive committee meeting at the beginning of the weekend, urged the sort of strong hierarchical structure for which there has been increasing pressure both in Whitehall and Brussels because of forthcoming European Economic Community issues which still have to be tackled.

But the three senior institutions, particularly the latter two, are apparently not happy at top-tier chartered engineers having to face parity with technician engineers on a new governing council, nor about changes that could strengthen unduly the role of Engineers Registration Board.

The CEI appeared to be envisaging the new organization's council as a formal body meeting only infrequently, whereas the three senior institutions had seen such a grouping as having the ability to supervise affairs more closely.

It has also put forward a plan to collect professional fees centrally, dispensing them to bodies like the chartered institutions on the basis of an agreed budget. So long as the idea carries overtones of institutions ceding all control of such money, it seems unlikely to get approval by all.

MONEY SUPPLY

The following are the figures released today for the monthly amount of the money stock, seasonally adjusted, at the mid-month make-up date:

	M1	M3	Percentage change over 3 months at an annual rate	Percentage change over 3 months at an annual rate
	£000m	£000m	M1	M3
1973				
Oct	122	310	-17.1	32.4
Nov	123	313	-9.5	24.8
Dec	123	322	-0.9	27.6
1974				
Jan	124	328	-6.4	25.3
Feb	123	334	-2.0	28.5
March	123	334	-2.8	15.8
April	126	334	7.6	7.4
May	125	336	9.4	2.2
June	124	335	6.3	0.6
July	126	345	0.0	13.2
Aug	127	349	6.5	15.5
Sept	127	350	11	18.0
Oct	129	351	11.7	7.6

Mercedes names UK lump truck agent

Clifford Webb, Coventry, Delny and Widnes.

Ward is itself a considerable user of this type of equipment in its own quarry and civil engineering operations. Mercedes has thus acquired a customer and a seller at the same time in a sector of the commercial vehicle market which is reckoned to be the most difficult of all.

Hans Tanscher, manager of Mercedes-Benz UK (now a wholly owned subsidiary of Europe's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer), said last night: "Off-road vehicles are mainly unregistered and this poses difficult servicing problems. We chose Ward for this job because they have an excellent reputation for on-site service with vehicles operating from strategically placed local depots, most of which are close to motorways."

Sugar gap boost for substitutes

By David Young

An unprecedented increase in the sales of sugar substitutes, created by the sugar shortage, has led several companies to switch to 24-hour production of them.

In Britain substitutes are no longer being bought solely as diet aids and in the United States the companies involved have announced expansion plans.

Before the sugar shortage the United Kingdom market was estimated to be worth £5m, with £500,000 being spent on press and television advertising aimed at the slimming market. Sales are now estimated to have trebled.

The three main "sugar type" sweeteners on the British market, Sucron, Slimcase Sugar and Sweet 'n' Low, contain pure sugar—98 per cent in the case of Slimcase Sugar—with saccharin added to increase sweetening power. A half spoonful of these products is normally equal to a spoonful of sugar, and costs are comparable.

In the market for "table-top sweeteners", saccharin tablets, Boots' Sweetest brand has the major share. A spokesman for Boots said the demand had risen dramatically over the past weeks, but despite this there were no supply problems.

Chrysler closing US assembly plants for month

Detroit, Nov. 16.—Chrysler Corp will shut its United States car assembly plants and some manufacturing facilities for the month of December, sources in the automobile industry said.

Chrysler would neither confirm nor deny the report, but an industry insider said the company had ordered no parts from suppliers for next week, which suggests that many component plant workers are likely to be laid off along with assemblers.

About 100,000 production workers are employed by Chrysler. More than one-third are assembling cars. The entire system were to shut down an estimated 113,000 workers would be idle.

Plants normally shut between Christmas and New Year's Day and workers are paid for that period. Some workers, however, are not paid if laid off.

The savings to Chrysler would be \$20m (about £9m) on that score alone.

For the most part, the new agreements are unchanged from 1974. But small reductions in capacity are planned during the winter season in the New York-San Francisco and Chicago-San Francisco markets.

CBI likely to continue pay guide exercise

By Malcolm Brown

Industrialists will be asked by the Confederation of British Industry on Wednesday whether the CBI should go ahead with plans to draw up independent guidelines on pay. The issue will be one of the main items on the agenda of the CBI's grand council.

Business leaders have made it clear that they have little faith in the wage restraint guidelines in the social contract. One of the confederation's top bodies, the employment policy committee, has already been doing preliminary groundwork for CBI guidelines for several weeks.

The meeting of the TUC General Council on Wednesday morning is bound to colour the thinking of CBI council members in making their decision. The union leaders will debate a TUC economic committee discussion document which offers scope for more scrupulous observance of the social contract negotiating advice.

The most likely outcome of the CBI meeting is that the employment policy committee will be asked to go ahead with a more detailed exercise in drawing up guidelines while keeping a watching brief on the TUC.

Industrialists are keenly aware of the political difficulties inherent in the exercise, since the existence of an alternative series of guidelines alongside those of the TUC could well produce a divisive mood rather than the cooperative relationship which the CBI claims it would like to see.

It may be, however, that by pressing ahead with its independent exercise the CBI hopes to manoeuvre the TUC to some form of compromise solution.

Bahrain refinery scheme shelved

Bahrain, Nov. 16.—Plans to add a \$90m (£38.5m) dealka plant to Bahrain Petroleum Company's refinery here have again been suspended, according to today's edition of Gulf Weekly Mirror, quoting reliable sources.

Bahrain's refinery is the fourth largest in the Gulf and the new plant would have produced 50,000 barrels a day of lead-free oil for the Japanese market. The plan was first put forward 18 months ago but was shelved during the energy crisis. Rising oil and labour costs are understood to have made the project uneconomic and to have caused some postponement of a year is expected.

COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT

ZAMBIA COPPER INVESTMENTS LIMITED

(Incorporated in Bermuda)

PROPOSALS FOR THE REORGANISATION OF NCHANGA CONSOLIDATED COPPER MINES LIMITED (NCHANGA)

At a Special General Meeting of members of the company held in Bermuda on the 14th November, 1974, the resolution authorising the directors to take such action as may be required for the adoption by Nchanga of new Articles of Association so as to enable that company to give effect to the arrangements described in the circular to members containing the notice which convened the meeting was passed without modification. A poll was taken and the result was as follows:

No. of Members	No. of Votes	No. of Members	No. of Votes
Voting for	62 870 893	Voting against	18 070

Subsequently at an Extraordinary General Meeting of members of Nchanga held in Zambia on the 15th November, 1974, the necessary amendments to that company's Articles of Association were approved by the adoption of new Articles of Association.

Members are accordingly notified that the arrangements for the reorganisation of Nchanga have now become effective.

15th November, 1974.

Editorial Note

Of the total number of votes in favour of the resolution 61 873 231 represented holdings of the Anglo American Corporation/Chambers groups (including Minorco), non-group votes in favour totalled 997 662 by 1,061 members.

Americans keep air route limits

New York, Nov. 17.—American Airlines, Trans World Airlines and United Airlines, a unit of UAL Inc, reached agreement on extensions for 1975 of capacity reduction pacts covering 22 major United States routes, officials of the carriers said.

For the most part, the new agreements are unchanged from 1974. But small reductions in capacity are planned during the winter season in the New York-San Francisco and Chicago-San Francisco markets.

Cambridge don criticizes Budget 'error'

Mr Wynne Godley, director of the department of applied economics, University of Cambridge, in a paper commissioned and issued by Vickers, de Costa and Co, the City stockbrokers, accuses the Treasury of making an error in calculating the financial balance for current year equivalent to at least 4 per cent of gross domestic product.

That is greater, he says, than the change in the financial balance introduced intentionally in any Budget since 1950-51.

He is also critical of the "distinctly modest" relief of £800 offered to industry in the Budget to offset the huge increase in the book value of its stocks over the last year.

Mr Godley concludes: "In this very complex situation no emphatic conclusions can be drawn about the likely behaviour of the stock market."

My view, for what it is worth, is that the collapse in equity prices is the consequence of exaggerated fears about the future.

"Accordingly, my expectation is that, looking, say, a year ahead, it is more likely than not that there will be a substantial recovery."

Hoover pay deal ends stoppage

Workers involved in the 10-week unofficial strike at the Cambuslang factory of Hoover, near Glasgow, are to go back to work this morning. Five hundred key craftsmen decided on Saturday to accept the result of negotiations.

The management had made the date for payment of an extra £3 October 1 next year but the craftsmen wanted it brought forward. The extra money will be paid to grades 1, 2 and 3 skilled workers on January 1, to grades 4, 5 and 6 on August 1, and to the rest on October 1.

2001

Can you wait for it?

PICCADILLY THEATRE LTD. Viability of London Theatres

The 36th annual general meeting of the Piccadilly Theatre was held on the 13th November, at the Piccadilly Theatre, Denman Street, London. Mr Donald Alderson, Chairman, presided.

The trading results for the year ending the 31st December, 1973 have proved to be more than equal to the profits for the year ending the 31st December, 1971. The increase—even taking inflation into account—is substantial if one looks at the poor results for the year ending the 31st December, 1972, but the results on your investment, if you are at all invested, are still grossly inadequate.

With regard to the current year, the results will unfortunately not be as good as last year, but in view of the difficult economic conditions prevailing, you will probably not be too disappointed.

As regards the future, the present financial situation of the country has made it very difficult for Producing Managements to obtain finance for anything but small productions and there is a very grave risk that in the ensuing year the larger theatres will find it increasingly difficult to obtain the right kind of production. The industry has taken and is continuing to take every possible step to make the Chancellor of the Exchequer aware of the gravity of the situation and to persuade him to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors, who first exempted the Live Theatre from Entertainment Tax and then S.E.T., by zero-rating the Live Theatre in respect of V.A.T.

The proposed redevelopment of Piccadilly Circus has continued to take up an inordinate amount of the time and attention of your Directors. Very powerful influences are at work but we still think that ultimately we shall be able to persuade the "powers that be" that, in view of the impossibly high costs of new construction, it would be madness to destroy the viability of any one of London's remaining theatres.

Our staff take a very personal interest in your Theatre and we are very lucky to be so well served.

Progress on insurance rescue fund

By Margaret Stone

Some points of agreement over the proposed rescue fund for failed insurance companies are beginning to emerge from the series of discussions being held between the Department of Trade and all sections of the insurance industry.

It now seems clear that the Government is sympathetic to the idea that the fund should be segregated into two, one part financed by the life assurance section covering life office failures, the other being the responsibility of the non-life companies.

The other proposal being put forward by the business as a whole, which appears to be gaining ground with the Government, is that rather than paying towards a standing rescue fund, insurance companies should be on call to meet their obligatory contributions to the kitty only in the event of an insurance company actually running into difficulties.

Other aspects on the mechanics of operating and financing a rescue fund are causing more trouble mainly because the insurance business wants a more equitable allocation of costs—which runs counter to the Department of Trade's desire to keep the whole operation as simple as possible.

Members of the Linked Life Assurance Group who met department officials last week are anxious to secure less onerous requirements for linked-life funds because linked-life funds are self-balancing—that is, the value of the units moves up and down in-line with changes in the underlying worth of the assets. Such groups, it is contended, are very unlikely to run into trouble.

They are also concerned to secure a more equitable treatment for groups which write a large amount of single premium business, arguing that the upper limit of an annual levy of 1 per cent of premium income should be scaled down in respect of single premium business. It is argued that only one-fifth of single premium business income should be included in the total for calculating each company's contribution to the rescue fund.

The Life Offices Association, for its part, is anxious that costs should be allocated according to risk. It argues that as some forms of insurance are potentially more vulnerable than others, companies writing that kind of business should pay proportionately more towards the rescue fund.

It is also becoming clear that the mechanics of the proposed rescue fund will have to be closely dovetailed with the forthcoming regulations which apply when an insurance company goes into liquidation.

Lending rate 11 1/2 pc

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate remains at 11 1/2 per cent this week. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury bill tender:

Applications	£120m	Allotted	£120m
Received	297.20	Received	38.6
Average yield	9.0865	Received	9.2
Next Friday	£120m	Replace	£300m

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Rover recalls 8,000 laid off by strike

Eight thousand men laid off by the strike of 45 key workers at the Rover-Triumph factory at Canley, Coventry, are being recalled today. The company has manoeuvred its workers for work for negotiations on their pay grievance.

Most people take out life assurance on a long-term basis.

Which is very sensible, because it gives long-term security, and profits.

But most policies are not designed to help if you need the money sooner.

With Scottish Provident's Selected Period Investment Policy, things are different.

You can write the maturity date on the policy after 10 years.

So you could collect in 1984. Without losing capital, and with profits.

This type of policy is an invention of ours. It's been limited, but never beaten. It means that if you can wait for the 21st century, that's fine.

But you won't be penalised if you can't. Ask your broker. Or fill in the coupon.

To: Scottish Provident, 6 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2VA. Tel: 01-5559181. I'd like to know more about the S.P.I.

Name _____

Address _____

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT

Making your money work

Management

£1 a week story of success

Somewhat over six years ago a pound a week bought a lot of commitment from employees of English China Clays, perhaps more than a pound a week was worth at the time, and it demonstrated a lot of commitment from the company's management. That pound a week was a symbol of a significant change in the climate within Cornwall's largest employer.

Somehow less than perfect. There were 20 engineering grades alone, with a basic rate of £15 16s.10d. for a 40-hour week. About 20 per cent of the employees were working 60 or 70 hours a week for "decent pay" and the rest were subsisting at or near the basic rates.

Once the principles were worked out and basic security needs filled to a greater extent, the company lived up to its participation commitment. The most visible manifestation of the change during the first year was a 34 per cent improvement in productivity.

A turning off the road towards bankruptcy

Throughout Europe road haulage companies are in trouble, due to trucks laid up for want of work or operating at uneconomic rates. In Britain Mr John Silbermann, vice-chairman of the Road Haulage Association, has warned that many British hauliers face bankruptcy unless they raise prices by over 20 per cent.

IBM's effective way of solving problems

From Mr M. L. Robey Sir, Mr Owen, in his article on IBM (November 11), made valid and achievable claims about the company which I believe call for further qualification. Having spent an albeit brief period of seven months with IBM in its Hursley laboratories, I believe I can make a small contribution to the discussion.

Now an extra bill for the privilege of being a self-employed person

From Mr Richard Need Sir, Now that the subject of self-employed personal insurance contributions has been raised in the House perhaps you will allow it to move sideways from your Business pages, particularly in view of the appalling prejudice or ignorance shown by some Labour members.

Three door Mini - why not here?

From Mr Ivor Hall Sir, The article in your issue of October 22 on the three door British Leyland Mini being produced in Italy, and my subsequent visit to the Minor Show, prompts me to record my dismay that British Leyland are not producing this "mini version" of the Mini in this country.

UNILEVER N.V. DIVIDEND ON CERTIFICATES FOR ORDINARY SHARES. N.V. NEDERLANDSCH ADMINISTRATIE-EN TRUSTKANTOOR. A dividend of £1.75 per share is payable on the certificates for ordinary shares of Unilever N.V. issued by the N.V. NEDERLANDSCH ADMINISTRATIE-EN TRUSTKANTOOR.

Industry in the regions

Offshore oil challenge to North west market

With the offshore oil industry able to offer a home market of some £500m a year for goods and services, it is possibly 10 times that size in the wider context, it is hardly surprising that an organization like the North West Industrial Development Association wants to make sure that its own hard-pressed region gets its share of the pickings.

Postal position

From Mr K. H. Hennings Sir, Professor Balfour (Business News, October 24) is wrong; a letter sent from West Germany to Britain requires 70 pence postage, roughly 11p. A letter posted to other members of the EEC would cost only 50 pence, but as HM Post Office has refused to follow the example of other EEC countries and reduce on a bilateral basis the rates for letters sent to the level of inland postage rates, the West German Post Office feels obliged to charge the standard rate for letters abroad.

Business appointments

Sir Robin's Europe post Sir Robin Brook, past-president and now a vice-president of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, has been elected president of the Conference Permanente des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie, which represents the membership's views of about 800 chambers throughout Europe.

Invest in SOUTHAMPTON Bonds. 13 1/2% 13% 1 year 2 or 3 years. Minimum investment £500. Trustee Security. Details from City Treasury Centre, Southampton SO9 4XD.

Correxion

From Mr M. P. S. Barton Sir, The only "sic" thing about your column is Mr McElroy's ignorance of his own authority as any respectable lexicographer will confirm.

Diversification: the keynote of a record year for W Ribbons

W Ribbons. Results at a Glance £'000: 1974 1973. Group Turnover 4,309 2,728. Profit before tax 430 257. Profit after tax 173 145. Total Dividend 1.75p 1.75p. Earnings per Share 4.65p 4.48p.

هكنا من التضرل. Sir Robin Brook, past-president and now a vice-president of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, has been elected president of the Conference Permanente des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The retail sector after the Budget

Mr Healey's proposals may or may not be done, they at least assured the retailer that Christmas and even set in train the of a high level of through to the early white unleashing deflation for the future (in of inevitably sharp in nationalized industries), the Chancellor to immediate action the consumer. So concludes that have bobbed an unexpectedly cheery August now look of course, by the ound of threshold in- as if they should con- push ahead at least into year. After that the will start warming up next Budget, and the of differential value- and other fiscal disin- to consumption could ep the momentum going rough to March.

Mr Healey's proposals seek to do much on the s, the specific measures rbitrary in their impact, ices have tended to rise than those for textile Tesco gains around £7m deferrals resulting from tax allowances for stock ation. In no foods, and debentures are bene- but a group like Marks ater, where stock levels contained last year, hardly at all.

en it comes to the relaxa- in the Prices Code, these sly appear to have spelled almost sections of the net margins fall by at least a quarter below refer- levels, retailers can raise goss to compensate. The- ally, this is good news for notable sufferers as Wool- hams (where the margins eared in its recently pub- interim results). But in ce the central problem of these groups is market e and image. They may, in find it extremely difficult improve gross margins by ing prices: the climate re- us like Tesco appear to be stituting to improve market re on a pricing basis.

ut whether they gain from latest Budget or not, rers should now be over the as far as margins are ned. The enforced 10 cent cut in the gross in- y meant that a group like ks increased its sales by a fifth and just maintained profits. From a sales gain, arer of next year's gains, the result of inflation volume gains will start to lected in earnings growth, vided internal costs do not rease at a faster rate than ies.

The worrying aspect is the sibility of further govern- controls next year. The rent annual saving from ss margin cuts is estimated around £400m by the Price mission. In other words the adlers are protecting the con- mer from the underlying sse in prices to the extent of per cent. Estimated saving £245m in the manufacturing ctor put this figure in per- spective. There must obvi- ly be some risk that the vnement will indulge in rther selective controls next ar, when prices really start ke into real disposable come.

Engineering

The worry now s demand

t is unlikely that the Budget resures will have anything ke as tangible an effect on ofits in the capital goods ec- or as in the consumer sector, mply because of the different ure of the profits involved.

One thing that stands out in ny analysis of United Kingdom engineering and certain other

heavy manufacturing industries is the high proportion of profits—typically between a third and a half, or even more—that are derived from overseas sales. Sterling depreciation has given rise to large differentials between the price at which a United Kingdom manufacturer can currently sell in Europe (eg 35 per cent in the case of twist drills) and that which a domestic producer can offer.

freedom from price controls overseas, United Kingdom engineers have seen handsome margins on overseas sales. It is no surprise then that the profits curve in engineering has in many cases turned sharply up this year, while that for more United Kingdom dependent and therefore more constrained sectors has often declined. In converse of this is that the engineering sector stands to gain less on the Price Code concession front, both in terms of the productivity deduction and the 10 per cent capital investment rule.

There is, moreover, another reason for supposing this to be true. Though United Kingdom order books in engineering have remained remarkably firm this year, there is some very recent evidence of a general downturn. If orders continue to fall away, the scope for increasing prices in line with the revised code clearly diminishes.

However, the essential point on this score is that capital goods profits are in any case much more determined by the level of capacity utilization in relation to overheads than they are by prices and that even the continuance of export demand cannot be guaranteed. Falling demand and narrowing price differentials, certainly in Europe, influence the picture here and it seems unlikely that British manufacturers will get more than a modest devaluation boost, at least as long as Arab funds do not take flight.

Investment provision, which seems unlikely to stimulate larger new investment or the resuscitation of shelved projects—Metal Box said so on its own behalf last week—but it will help to recover more of existing investment costs. This, though, is always subject to the market remaining firm enough to stand higher prices.

Post-Budget research by Phillips & Drew shows the theoretical price increase (as a percentage of United Kingdom sales) allowed by the investment provisions. It is between 1 and 2 per cent for the leading general and heavy engineering groups; the significantly higher percentages being in more or less engineering oriented sectors outside engineering, though an exception is probably the chemical sector.

The stock appreciation provisions will certainly assist liquidity in the engineering sector, though again the beneficial impact will be limited where a company has heavy capital allowances to set against taxable profits already. The investor should regard the Budget provisions as being calculated mainly to keeping the capital goods sector companies in business in the general context of overall liquidity, rather than as a shot in the arm for profits and share prices.

the banking subsidiary, expanded at breathtaking speed, with deposits soaring from £48m to £131m and advances rising from £17m to £72m. In the light of the precipitate and costly purchase of Welfare last year and the rapid pace of the build-up, the market's concern about the quality of the rest of the business looks understandable.

Some clues about the course of events since the publication of the balance sheet in June can be gleaned from Bates's statement at the time of the initial agreement with Lendop and Manchester over Welfare. This referred to a liquidity ratio in the bank "currently in excess of 30 per cent of deposits," which the report represents a "net asset value for the group of around 30p."

Simply making allowance for write-offs of over £94m on Welfare would not have reduced Bates's net worth sheet to the last published balance sheet, however. The crude arithmetic points to further provisions and write-offs in the current year of around £2m, with investments held by selling subsidiaries and advances on property looking like possible culprits. Against a background of general uncertainty in the financial sector and a deteriorating position on the right-hand side of Bates's own balance sheet, the nature and extent of any support the group can expect from Atlantic Assets Trust, which owns 31 per cent of the equity, is clearly important.

Atlantic is not taking any of the convertible loan stock which Bates is to finance a £2m cash injection in Welfare under the agreement with National Westminster and London and Manchester. Subscribers for the full £2m have apparently been found, elsewhere and publication of the terms is expected shortly. But the deal under which Atlantic has agreed to buy Bates's United States subsidiary, Bates Oil Corporation (BOC), on terms which give Bates a £2.1m pre-emptive ending support arrangement. Atlantic is to acquire BOC for \$5.4m and it will also make a loan to enable BOC to repay \$2.6m of borrowings. The deal is conditional on the approval of Bates's shareholders and on the repayment of BOC before commencing operations. The intention is to pay off these remaining borrowings by selling some of the company's working interests in gas and oil which, it is hoped, will raise enough to wipe the slate clean.

There is, however, a further condition attached to the deal. If Bates does not fulfil the main conditions and the transaction falls through, Atlantic has agreed to make deposits of \$5m with Bates's banking subsidiary. The explanation for this unusual feature, it seems, is that existing arrangements whereby Atlantic ensures that deposits are made with the bank will come to an end on the completion of the purchase of BOC; if, on the other hand, the deal falls through, Atlantic will resume these arrangements under which a deposit of \$5m would immediately be required.

The scope of these reciprocal agreements is not spelt out in the accounts of either company, although it is clear that the support for shareholders in both. Holders of Atlantic Assets, the market value of whose investment in Bates has fallen from over £13m a year ago to little over £1m today, have the opportunity to make enquiries at the annual general meeting on Friday.

Shareholders in Bates, meantime, would do well to ask for some reassurance on arrangements for any future support from Atlantic, which is expected at the general meeting called to approve the BOC deal. It is highly unlikely, of course, that the Bank of England would allow the fully authorized banking subsidiary to run into trouble. But the implicit guarantee may not extend to shareholders in the parent.

In many respects the present American coal industry dispute, which threatens to do great damage to the United States economy, is a test of strength for Mr W. A. "Tony" Boyle, President of the United Mine Workers' Union (UMW).

For years the UMW was led by men of immense power, and corruption was widespread. A rebellion was started to oust the established leadership and it ended in murder. Mr Joseph "Jack" Yablonski sought to undo Mr W. A. "Tony" Boyle, UMW President, and he was killed.

Mr Boyle is now serving a life sentence for organizing the killing. Mr Miller replaced Mr Boyle in late 1972 and the current labour contract negotiation is his first real test.

Mr Miller worked in the mines for 24 years and he and his colleagues at the top of the UMW today have sought to clean-up and democratize the union. They enjoy strong rank-and-file support, but their position has had to face an increasing number of unofficial strikes.

There were more than 1,500 wildcat strikes in the coal mines in 1973 alone. Mine owners admit that industrial relations have reached an almost unworkable state and they hope that the current contract negotiations can pave the way for a new era of effective cooperation.

The talks on the new contract started in early September, but they have gone on so long because of the vast collection of more than 200 specific demands put forward by the union and because of the negotiating inexperience of Mr Miller and his colleagues.

But the mine owners also view the new contract as something out of the ordinary. Their relationship with the UMW has deteriorated over the years and they have had to face an increasing number of unofficial strikes.

The strike will only end after the rank-and-file miners have agreed to the new contract in a ballot. This is the first time in the union's 80 year history that the miners have been directly consulted in this way on a new contract.

This ratification process is part of Mr Miller's union reforms and the degree of approval the contract obtains from the 125,000 active miners in the UMW will reflect the degree of support that Mr Miller now enjoys.

A tentative settlement has been agreed, which involves big benefits for the miners, including substantial pay increases and significant improvements in working conditions and pensions.

The coming week will see whether this settlement meets with widespread support from the miners. Mr Miller has already had considerable difficulty in selling this settlement to the national bargaining council of his own union.

But should the tentative settlement reached by Mr Miller be rejected by the miners, there is a danger that President Ford will get impatient and seek to invoke the Taft-Hartley Act. By this means the strike will be declared unlawful and an official 30 day cooling-off period will be started. The danger here is that this action will open old wounds in this industry.

As things now stand, there is a good chance that the miners will accept the new settlement and the strike should then end within the next weeks.

Frank Vogel

Bigtest for US mine workers' president

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The changing face of wealth

How do you share a cake when you neither know how big it is nor how much has been eaten? Since redistribution really means the removal of wealth from the personal to the public sector, it is surprising that we should talk so confidently about fair shares when we do not even know the size of our national wealth, let alone how much is already owned by the Government.

Perhaps an even more fundamental question is what we mean by national wealth. The simplest definition is the total sum that will be obtained if every individual and organization resident in the United Kingdom, including companies and government bodies, estimated the current market value of its assets and liabilities. (This will be the same as the total value of everything in the United Kingdom, plus the difference between our overseas investments and the amount that overseas residents have invested in us.)

J. Revell and A. R. Roe* have published estimates showing that this figure rose from £60,000m in 1957 to £140,000m in 1966. Since then, property values—the main determinant of national wealth—have risen sharply.

A study which I conducted for the stockbrokers Sandelson and Company, which has just been published, shows that the total wealth of the United Kingdom in March this year was approximately £400,000m. Those who are worried about Arab oil shaiikhs buying up the country should take comfort from the fact that even if the OPEC countries used the whole of our oil deficit to buy assets, it would still take more than five years before they had acquired as much as 3 per cent of the present total.

Even though the total value of the United Kingdom has probably declined since March, this should not affect the nature of the conclusions reached in this article.

The physical assets on which the wealth of the United Kingdom is based are shown in the table. Besides the figures in this table, we have a surplus on our overseas investment and a number of other assets which have not been specifically valued. The chief of these is the value of our energy resources.

In figure one I have attempted a rough split between assets directly associated with production and the remainder. It will be seen that two fifths of the wealth of the United Kingdom is invested in dwellings and only half has any important influence on our gross national product. These findings might be borne in mind when considering investment priorities.

A natural question is "Who owns this wealth?" One of the most surprising conclusions from my study is that a large

around 53 per cent in 1960 to about 45 per cent in 1970.

In spite of this, complaints about inequality have become more pronounced. One reason why this should be so is shown in figure three.

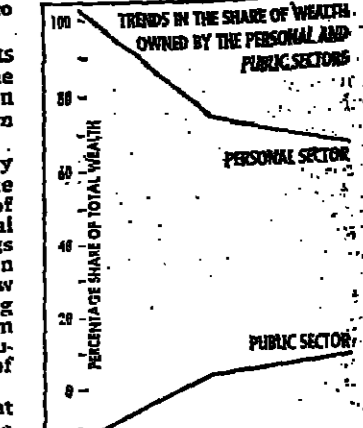
This has been calculated by dividing the total wealth of the personal sector at the end of each year by the total personal disposable income or savings for that year. The result can be considered as showing how many years income or saving an average man starting from scratch would require to accumulate an average amount of wealth.

It will be seen from this that to an average man "average wealth" would have meant about 4½ years disposable income in 1959 and 1966, but by March this year it would have meant more than 5 years.

Again, with prosperity, the proportion of their income that people were able to save increased. As a result, by 1966, even disregarding interest, it was possible to accumulate average wealth out of a lifetime's savings. Since then asset values have risen faster than savings so that the prospect of achieving average wealth by this means will have appeared to become more remote.

If this argument is accepted then the feelings of inequality are due not to an increase in the proportion of wealth owned by the top 1 per cent or 5 per cent but to a widening of the gap between the 45 per cent or so who purchased their first homes before prices rose so rapidly and the remainder.

The way in which the gap between home owners and the rest of the population is growing can be seen from the fact that the percentage of total



proportion of our national wealth is not really owned by anyone at all.

The main component of this "unowned wealth" is the assets of companies. In theory, the net asset value of all companies should be worth either the same as, or if goodwill is excluded less than, its market capitalization. It follows that if the market value of the shares is treated as a liability, the net asset value of all companies should be zero or negative. In fact, we find it to be £90,000m or 23 per cent of the total. The average shareholder's wealth would be multiplied almost fourfold if the companies in which he had invested went into voluntary liquidation.

Before we can decide who owns this corporate wealth, we must explain why firms are not liquidated in the interests of their shareholders. Under-valued companies continue in business for the benefit of customers, management and perhaps for the future benefit of shareholders. All these groups then share in this unowned wealth.

The Government also has a stake through potential capital gains tax liabilities.

Another type of unowned wealth is represented by the difference between the vacant possession value of rented properties and their current market value. In our study we found this difference to be £14,000m.

This figure, which might be described as the value of tenants' rights, was not included in our overall valuation, since it is not true, marketable, wealth.

Apart from the 23 per cent of total wealth "owned" by companies, 10 per cent is owned by government, including the public sector, and 67 per cent or £260,000m by private individuals, unincorporated businesses and non-profit making bodies such as charities and trade unions.

It is of interest to see how the sector distribution of wealth has changed through time. Figure two charts the position at three approximately equally spaced years.

It will be seen that in 1959 the public sector was still in a

position where the market value of the national debt exceeded the value of publicly-owned assets. From then until 1966—largely under a Conservative Government—the public sector gained wealth from private individuals at a rate of 2½ per cent per annum.

Since then the rate has slowed down but "redistribution" still continues at about 1 per cent per annum.

It is difficult to see why we should strain at the gnat of a wealth tax which will yield less than £500m when we have already swallowed the camel of inflationary policies which redistribute wealth at a rate which is more than six times as great.

As we have seen, public ownership of wealth has been growing at the expense of the personal sector. In addition, the distribution of private wealth has been becoming more equal. The wealth tax Green Paper, for example, shows that the share owned by the most wealthy 5 per cent of the population fell from

personal wealth accounted for by the value of dwellings less mortgages, rose from 13 per cent in 1959, through 23 per cent in 1966, to 37 per cent in March, 1974.

Whatever other arguments for wealth and capital transfer taxes there may be, we should recognize that neither these, nor any other taxes will close this particular wealth gap between established home owners and the rest of the population. The thorny questions of whether or not the gap should be closed and, if so, how it should be done, are, fortunately, outside the scope of this article.

James Rothman,
National Balance Sheets and National Accounting, Economic Trends, J. Revell and A. R. Roe; HMSO, May, 1971.
*The Wealth of the United Kingdom, J. Rothman; Sandelson and Co, November, 1974.

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Edward Bates and Sons (Holdings) has managed to recover some ground in the stock market since the troubles of its Welfare Insurance subsidiary pushed the shares down to 18p in October. But an historic 2½ per cent of under 2½ and a yield of nearly 30 per cent at 25p still reflect considerable doubts about the ongoing business now that London and Manchester and the National Westminster have agreed to shoulder the burden of Welfare's spiralling cash needs.

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Today a pleasure boat with 45 unusual guests will be ploughing its way up the Rhine from Holland towards Düsseldorf, heading for a visit tomorrow to Gast 74, the 23rd International exhibition for the hotel and catering industry.

The guests are 45 "commercial policymakers", as the programme describes them, from nine Asiatic developing countries. The trip is the result of an EEC policy vote in May this year, when the Council of Ministers resolved to extend the financing of activities promoting exports to the non-associated countries in the third world.

The delegates, from Bangladesh, Ceylon, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, went aboard in Rotterdam on November 10 and will disembark on November 30 in Antwerp after a tour of Europe's waterways and a crash course in selling to Europe.

In 10 leading cities they will meet industrialists, visit fairs and exhibitions, and be lectured five days a week in their floating hotel on the mentality of the European buyer and consumer.

The trip, organized by the CBI, cost the EEC about £700 per delegate, including return air fare—a good buy compared to the cost of holidays offered in the faraway places where the delegates are based.

The organizers have assured

themselves of a captive audience, but are curing their teeth on basic problems such as how to keep pork out of the diet of those with religious objections; how to keep the delegates brought with them out of the hands of the customs and how to keep publicity out of the symposium as a whole.

The loss of preferential treatment has hit those who export to Britain hard. These delegates do not just want to sell, they want to set up long-term projects such as joint ventures for packaging and marketing their products.

The ship sails to Holland, Germany, France and Belgium. Industrialists from other EEC countries are flying in to meet the Asian commercial summit en route.

Top press

A 30-year-old has just been put in charge of France's best known press "empire" headed by France Soir, which with a circulation of nearly one million is the country's best-selling daily.

M Dominique Ferry has been appointed director general of France Editions et Publications, which is 80 per cent owned by Hachette, and contributes about a quarter of the press, publishing, library and distribution group's total income.

M Ferry, who first learnt imported United States cost

efficiency techniques for the press at L'Express, arrives only shortly after the quiet departure of M Simon Nora as director general and chief administrator of the Hachette group.

The injection of young blood is intended as the first move, beginning in the press sector, to give a basically healthy group the best chance with which to face a downturn.

If the expected economic buffering comes, the French newspapers and magazines with the most efficient management techniques will survive best. France Soir illustrates the chief problems. It has been hit by rocketing paper costs, higher production charges generally but a fall in advertising, particularly for jobs, from which the Paris evening paper until now obtained two thirds of its advertising revenue.

With the generalized nervousness now sweeping the French press and printing world—newspaper amalgamations, redundancies at ORF, the French broadcast company, government interference at Europe No 1, the most popular French commercial radio station, and Neogravure, France's biggest printing concern, awaiting a rescue operation from bankruptcy—both the Ferry appointment and the Nora departure inevitably have political overtones.

M Nora was closely associated with M Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the former Gaullist prime minister who lost to M Giscard

d'Estaing at the presidential election in May.

As Hachette's shares fell on the Paris bourse by 50 per cent between July and July 1973, the friendly to the French President signalled the virtual end of the usefulness of the former Chaban aide to a press enterprise which has always liked to be well in with the government.

But Hachette has judged it wise after the Europe No 1 affair to emphasize that M Ferry's appointment will in no way interfere with M Henri Amann, who also comes from the Chaban Bordeaux stable, staying on as editor of France Soir.

Austere vow

Austerity was the word at the swearing-in of the new head of the government-run National Institute for Industry (INI), Spain's biggest industrial cartel, in Madrid last week.

Senor José María Guerra Zamunegui, the 47-year-old businessman, lawyer and economist named to take over INI in a moment of political crisis that obliged his predecessor to resign for "reasons of conscience", said last week when he formally took office that he had to offer and all he could promise were "austere, productivity, economic profitability and, above all, social profitability".

Senor Alfredo Santos Blanco,

Minister of Industry, also remarked on the tough times ahead and on the need for a reorganisation of INI's policies.

He said that INI would intensify its efforts in the fields of oil prospecting and the investigation of alternative energy sources. It would also dedicate preferential attention to food production and processing and would cooperate intensively in policies regulating the supply of raw materials.

Senor Zamunegui has been a professor of public finance and tax law at the University of Madrid, a government adviser on the tourist industry and a top official in the state's social security system.

Subsequently he successively headed two of the biggest INI enterprises, the Hunosa Mining Company and the National Cellulose Company.

The cartel which he now manages is the nation's biggest industrial combine, backed and controlled by the Government although partially financed by private capital.

Among the companies and industries in which INI is a whole or part-owner are Seat, Spain's biggest car manufacturer, the majority of the Spanish shipbuilding companies, and Pofatos de Bu-Craza, the potentially highly profitable company exploiting the world's biggest phosphate deposit in the controversial Spanish colony of the Sahara.

Edward Bates and Sons (Holdings) has managed to recover some ground in the stock market since the troubles of its Welfare Insurance subsidiary pushed the shares down to 18p in October. But an historic 2½ per cent of under 2½ and a yield of nearly 30 per cent at 25p still reflect considerable doubts about the ongoing business now that London and Manchester and the National Westminster have agreed to shoulder the burden of Welfare's spiralling cash needs.

In the year to March 31, 1974,

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In the year to March 31, 1974,

THE PERAK RIVER HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER CO. LTD.

(and its subsidiary company—The Kinta Electrical Distribution Co., Berhad).

Year to 31st July: (£'000)

Year	1974	1973	1972
Revenue from sale of Electricity	11,615	9,304	6,161
Net Profit after Taxation	987	1,471	1,136
Capital Employed	13,865	13,561	10,487
Ordinary Dividend Rate on:			
Capital Employed	5.47%	5.32%	6.55%
Issued Capital	24.25%	23.17%	22%
Units sold (millions)	1000.5	974.7	951.4

Extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr. Hugh G. Balfour.

PROPOSED PURCHASE. The Government of the Federation of Malaysia, in exercise of its rights under the Concession Agreement dated 5th November, 1926, gave formal notice on 6th February, 1974, of its intention to purchase the whole of the Company's (and its subsidiary's) The Kinta Electrical Distribution Company, Berhad electricity supply undertaking in Malaysia on 6th November, 1976.

POWER DEMAND. Total units sold were a record but the mining load increased only slightly although recovering from the decrease of some 2% recorded last year. The mining industry now takes 67.2% of output. Total units generated by the Company and imported from the National Electricity Board of the States of Malaya were 1,686.7 million.

GROSS REVENUE at £1,615,236 was 10.84% greater but the net operating profit of £1,822,957 compared with £2,545,774 (as adjusted for currency conversion) reflects the adverse effect of this very big increase in the cost of fuel oil during the year.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday, 20th November, 1974, at Management House, Parker Street, London, WC2B 5PS. Copies of the Report and Accounts are obtainable from the Secretary at this address.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Catel Trust provides £590,000 for Jessel write off

Shareholders in Jessel Securities... the financial unit trust and industrial holding group...

Bank of Canada cuts rate to 8 1/2 per cent

Bank of Canada reduced its bank rate to 8 1/2 per cent from 9 per cent, effective from today...

NY petition by Israel Bank

An involuntary bankruptcy petition was filed last Friday in New York Federal Court against Israel British Bank...

Mocatta's US gold scheme

From Frank Vogl Washington, Nov 17. Mocatta Metals Corporation, the United States subsidiary of the British Mocatta and Goldsmiths...

Dispute over RCM payments for arbitration

The Zambian government and Amax have agreed in principle that the Roan Consolidated Mines copper sales and management contracts will be terminated as from August 1...

Union miniere takes stake in modules

Union Miniere, the Belgian mining finance house, has taken a 25 per cent stake through its new subsidiary, Union Mines...

Paterson in trim for expansion

Stressing that accurate forecasting in more difficult than under the interim turnover rose from £220,000 to £410,000...

Details soon of CSI scheme

Details are expected this week of the proposed reconstruction of Cannon Street Investments, the banking, investment and property group...

Occidental resumes dividends

Occidental Petroleum is resuming payments on its common stock with a cash dividend of 25 cents per share...

McLeod Russel

With regard to future prospects Sir John D. K. Brown, the chairman of McLeod Russel, says that, most unusually, it is possible for once to take a reasonably optimistic view of the current year's profit from tea manufacture...

Warwick Eng

Last year's record profit is expected to be beaten this year at Warwick engineering. Meanwhile the interim turnover rose from £220,000 to £410,000...

Good start at Pearidge

Pearidge of Birmingham,

Wool prices improve more at auctions

Wool prices staged a good rally in London last week with the March position in the greasy wool contract advancing 6.25p to 167p per kilo...

Silhouette cut interim to conserve liquidity

Silhouette (London), the foundation garment, leisurewear and swimwear group, one of whose offshoots is a main supplier to Marks & Spencer...

BANKERS TRUST

Group has opened full-service branch in Milan which offers full range of commercial banking services, chiefly to corporate customers and financial institutions...

BP CANADA

Net income for nine months \$29.7m (\$15.7m or 51.4% (74 cents) a share. Group, in which BP has about 60 per cent stake, attributed earnings gain to improved returns from refined products and increased earnings from production of crude oil and natural gas.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Table listing various financial units, insurance policies, and offshore funds with columns for name, price, and other details.

Wool prices improve more at auctions

Wool prices staged a good rally in London last week with the March position in the greasy wool contract advancing 6.25p to 167p per kilo...

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The Times Share Indices

Table showing share indices for various sectors and the overall market, including indices for the week and the month.

Results this week

Table listing results for various companies and sectors, including names like Allied London, Fairbairn Lawson, and others.

WEDNESDAY: Finals

Table listing final results for Wednesday, including companies like Barton Transport, Longbourne Holdings, and others.

THURSDAY: Finals

Table listing final results for Thursday, including companies like Worth Holdings, J. Brockhouse, and others.

FRIDAY: Interims

Table listing interim results for Friday, including companies like BSG International, James Cropper, and others.

Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

Table listing weekly fixed interest stocks, including names like ABC & Wilson, All Anglo, and others.

Bank Base Rates

Table listing bank base rates for various banks, including Barclays Bank, FNF, and others.

Small handwritten text or signature at the bottom right corner.

MARKET REPORTS

Timely resurgence of new issues

It is getting to be almost like the old times in the Eurobond market. Prices were again on an upward trend last week and with the issuing houses now well and truly back in business the market was more replete with new issue rumours than for months.

Euromarkets

But the outlook for short term rates at least is far from discouraging. First National City Bank dropped its prime rate last Friday for the sixth week in succession, this time to 10 1/2 per cent. And...

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

Table with columns for Country, Issue, Price, Yield, and Premium. Includes entries for STRAIGHTS, CONVERTIBLES, NON-S BONDS, and various regional bonds like FRY'S EURO PIPELINE and SULLY.

Brokers' views

Another week of heavy business and substantial gains on the gold share pitches has inspired George Henderson to update its two previous reviews of the South African gold share sections.

reducing their stakes by "selling into strength". The gold producers, Henderson thinks, are facing soft inflation, labour difficulties and last, but certainly not least, political uncertainties.

West Driefontein as a "quality share" to hold. President Brand and Lorraine are also recommended, but with reservations in both cases.

Freight report

Exxon fixing leaves market in the air. Tanker market news of the week was the fixing by Exxon (Esso), of 2.3 million tons of vics (very large crude carriers) out of the Persian Gulf for end of November and December positions.

an inexplicable position. Although the number of idle vics left in the Gulf has been severely reduced, market rates have not moved by one iota from Worldscale 40. The non-improvement has had a psychological effect on the way tanker owners are thinking.

Commodities

'The uncontrollable nightmare'

It is seldom, indeed unique for this column, to hear a commodity buyer reveal some of his trade secrets. Mr Gilbert Richmond, managing director of the Hull-based Feedex Limited, was in London last week and the opportunity to listen to his views was too good to miss.

ence between a peak and a low price will be very little. Today the situation is totally different and the differential on the prices at the top and bottom is quite tremendous and with the right buying the end product to the producer can be a profit and the wrong buying a loss.

COUNTRY PROPERTIES

OXFORDSHIRE/WARWICKSHIRE BORDER. 2 splendid Cotswold cottages in Horton stone, over 200 years old, suitable for retirement or weekends. 9 miles from Banbury and 29 miles from Oxford...

LOVINGLY AND BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED TUNBRIDGE WELLS. Appeared to suit Canadian/American executive taste, this luxurious 11 yr. old house consists of: sitting room with open fire, dining room, both with parquet flooring...

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WYVON COTE, LINCOLNSHIRE. Impressive 19th century detached house, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large garden, swimming pool, tennis court, 20 acres.

GLOS./AVON BORDER. In the beautiful Cotswold hills, 3 miles from Stroud, 20 miles from Bath. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large garden, swimming pool, tennis court, 20 acres.

The Times Property Columns Today's market place-use it to find your buyer. Ring 01-837 3311

Commercial and Industrial Property. By Order of the Receiver & Manager H. O. Raphael, F.C.A. Re: Paramount Group of Companies. Basildon-Essex Modern Factory with Offices. 21,300 Sq. Ft. on 1 Acre. Heating Sprinklers Large. For Sale Leasehold. Joint Sole Agents: Henry Butcher & Co. 59/62 High Holborn London WC1V 6EG. Tel: 01-405 8411.

Auction 12th December 1974 (Unless sold). Freehold and Long Leasehold Investments and 2 SROPS with Living Accommodation with early reversion. 257 East Barnet Road, EAST BARNET, HERTS. (Let to R. G. McKinnon). 13 Hampden Square, SOUTHGATE, N.14 (Let to multiple tenants). 6 HOUSES let to CONTROLLED and REGULATED TENANTS. 121/3/5 Wood Street, BARNET, HERTS. 29 Brunswick Avenue, NEW SOUTHGATE, 43 Reversbrook Lane, HOLLOWAY, N.11 67 Mercers Road, HOLLOWAY, N.11 (Part Vacant).

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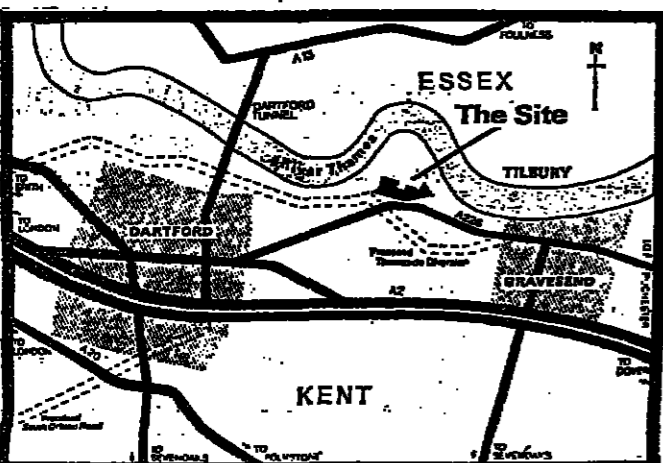
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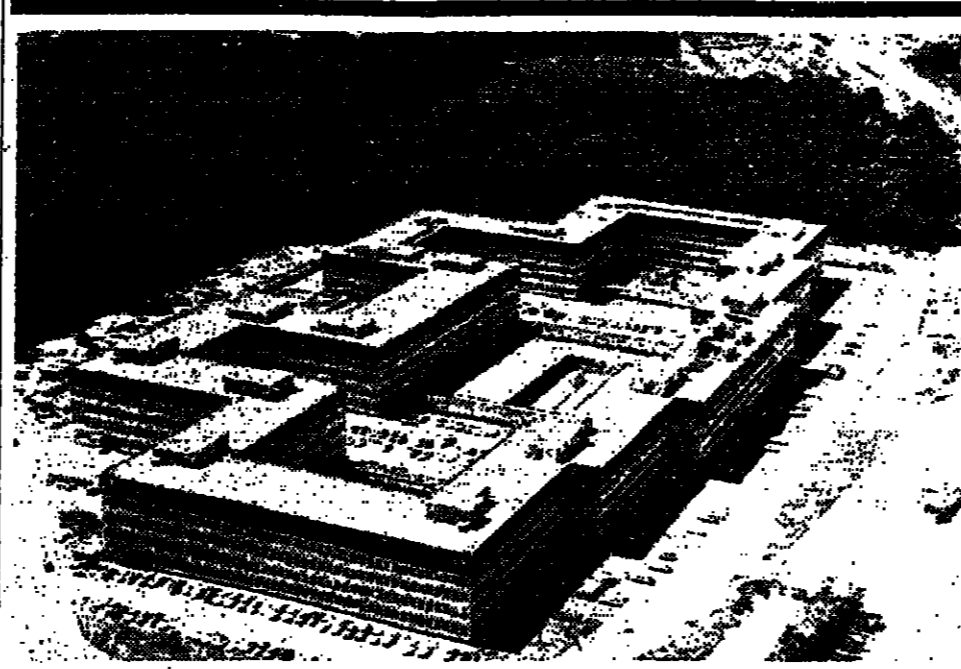
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An aerial view of the completed La Boursière office scheme, near Paris.

Whatever may be the long-term effects of the Budget on the property market, although immediately it seems to have little direct effect on property matters except for general business considerations, there is continuing buoyancy in the industrial sector. Lettings are being made, particularly of buildings already constructed, and no doubt things will be helped along a little by the tax concessions on industrial building.

Demand is particularly good in the South-east, where rents are reaching high levels. For instance, the first letting has been made on the Abbey Wharf Industrial Estate, in Kingsbridge Road, Barking, a development by Crown Freeholds. There are three other new units on the estate, a renovated warehouse and office building of 31,000 sq. ft. has gone to J. W. Levy and Co. at a rent of about £1.30 a sq. ft. The development covers over 100,000 sq. ft. of new and renovated warehouse accommodation, just off the A13. There are three other new units under offer at rents of about £1.50 a sq. ft. The letting was through Michael Kalmar and Partners.

At Ripple Road Trading Estate, lettings have been agreed on several small renovated industrial units at £1.40 a sq. ft. The development is by Clarendon Holdings. The joint agents are Michael Kalmar and Partners and Jones Lang Wootton. Eighty-four thousand sq. ft. of office, industrial and warehouse space on the Great West Road, Brentford, has been let to the Strand Glass Company. The lease is for 25 years. The rent has not been disclosed, but it is understood that the freeholders were thinking of £100,000 a year. The lessees were introduced by Chesterton, who acted for the freeholders in conjunction with Jones Lang Wootton and J. R. Eve and Son. The letting agents have been retained by Strand Glass to dispose of surplus space on a contract warehouse basis, which will provide a comprehensive service to include handling and security of goods.

In Sussex, Pambarus, Ltd. guard investment subsidiary of Braysier (Industrial Contracts) Ltd, the industrial developer,

Buoyancy in industrial buildings

is working on the first three units of a scheme of about 105,500 sq. ft. on part of the Burgess Hill Industrial Estate. The Pambarus scheme will provide warehouses from 12,000 sq. ft. in all it will contain 93,250 sq. ft. of warehouses and 12,250 sq. ft. of offices. The first unit of 13,200 sq. ft. including 905 sq. ft. of offices, is nearing completion. It is available for letting with the two other units, each providing 20,965 sq. ft. including 2,865 sq. ft. of offices. The agents are Weatherall Green and Smith, of London, and Geering and Colyer, of Haywards Heath.

On the Solihull Trading Estate, Mercedes-Benz is to dispose of two factory or warehouse units because of its acquisition of a 220,000 sq. ft. parts centre on the site of the former Westland Helicopter factory at Hayes, Middlesex. The agents are Grant and Partners. The larger of the two units has about 56,000 sq. ft. of virtually clear space, with an eaves height of about 16ft. The lease, which expires in March, 1980, is held from Solihull Industrial Estate and incorporates an index rental element giving a rent of £7,928 a year. Offers of £30,000 are being asked for the lease. The other unit has about 8,000 sq. ft. The lease expires in 1982. The rent is £4,650 a year. Negotiations are in hand for an assignment. On the Angel Drive Trading Estate at Ely, a rent of 72p a sq. ft. is being asked for a development completed recently by Readway Construction. The scheme will cover about 92,300 sq. ft., about a quarter of which has been let. Tenants include Securicor, and Vanplas (UK) Plastics Division (US). Hampton and Braysier (Industrial Contracts) South, the letting agents, say that much interest is being

shown in the remaining units, which consist of warehouses and offices and an industrial building of 9,000 sq. ft. An interesting renovation job coming along in London concerns 35 and 36 Grosvenor Street, Mayfair, which are adjacent to the Canadian High Commission and the Italian Embassy. The leases have been bought from Colman Prentis and Varley (Holdings) by Wheatheaf Investments, the development company of the Grosvenor Estate, the freeholders. Offers over £150,000 were being asked. Wheatheaf intends to rebuild both buildings behind the existing facades, which are protected. Work is due to start after Christmas for completion about March, 1976. The scheme will provide about 10,000 sq. ft. of offices and a flat. Jeffrey Young and Co acted for Colman Prentis and Varley. Picher Herberman and Partners, who acted for Wheatheaf, are letting agents with Hillier Parker May and Rowden. Jeffrey Young and Co are also offering 34 Grosvenor Street, which has about 13,250 sq. ft. net of offices. The lease is for sale, but rental offers of about £12 a sq. ft. would be considered.

On the Continent, work has been completed on the giant La Boursière office scheme on the outskirts of Paris. The design architects for the development, which has been carried out by the English Property Corporation, were the Charles Living Partnership, of London. The development is located to the south of the city on the new outer rim motorway, close to Orly airport. About a fifth of the building is let and occupied. Letting is through Bourdais & Weatherall SA, of Paris. More new offices are planned in Bristol, where the Comben Group has acquired a site in Whiteladies Road for a mixed development of 13,000 sq. ft. of offices and 10 flats. Building is expected to start in the new year. Lalonde Bros and Partners of Bristol, acted for the Comben Group and are retained for the office lettings. Peter E. Soper and Partners, also of Bristol, will be dealing with the flats. The vendors were represented by Stanley Alder and Price.

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Appointments Vacant also on page 6

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RENTALS... (includes various rental listings and notices)

adcasting and age. Panorama worries about juvenile delinquency (BBC1 8.10). Sid cops it is daughter's boy friend in Bless This House (ITV 8.0). Horizon, the science mme, skips to and fro across the Atlantic for graffiti and vandalism (9.25). Second City Firsts offers a documentary drama about steelworkers (10.15). Television news looks over its shoulder at itself in a new historical w-it's-done series (BBC1 11.13). The afternoon brings a new series of 'sity Challenge for quiz addicts (ITV 5.20).—L.B.

BBC 2 9 am. You and Me. 11.00-11.25 am. Play School. 1.00 pm. Women at Work. 3.30 pm. Public Mail. 4.45 pm. The National Health. 7.00 pm. The National Health. 7.30 pm. Faces of France, part 3. 7.45 pm. The National Health. 8.00 pm. The National Health. 8.45 pm. The National Health. 9.10 pm. The National Health. 9.25 pm. The National Health. 10.15 pm. Second City Firsts. Play, Fight for Shelter. 10.30 pm. The National Health. 11.20 pm. The National Health. 11.55 pm. The National Health. 12.00 pm. The National Health.

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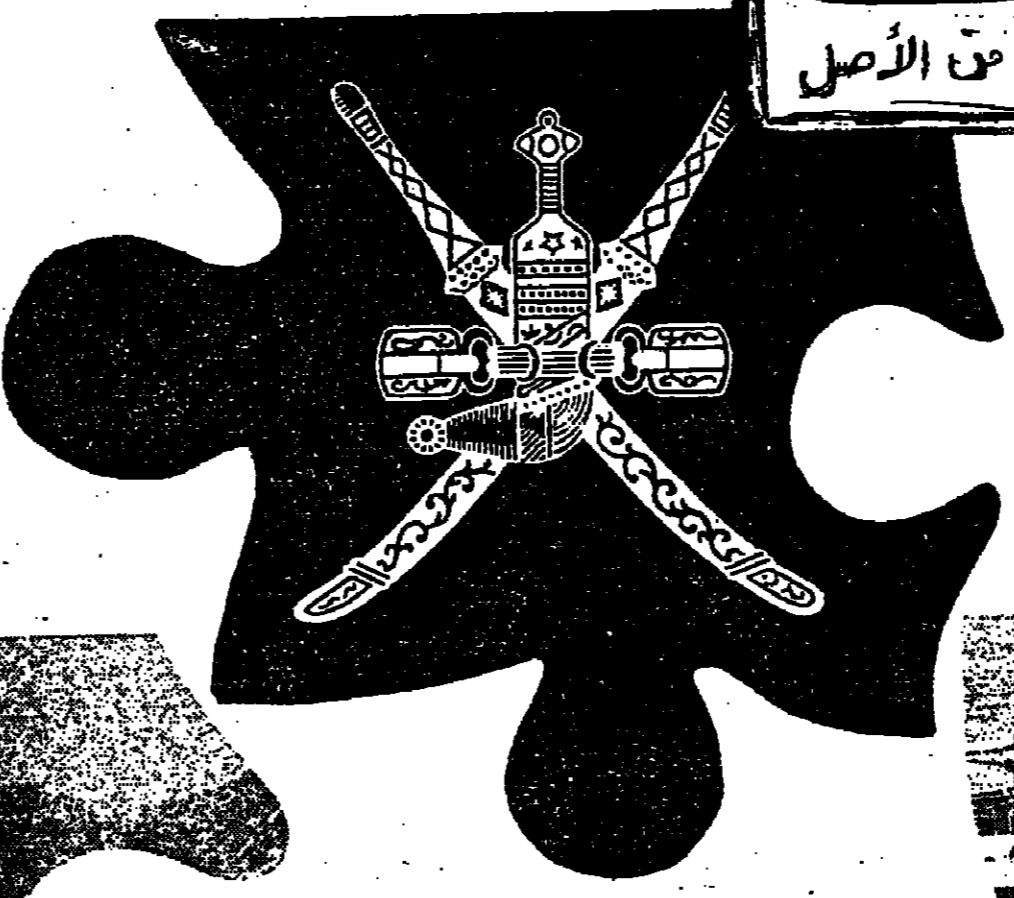
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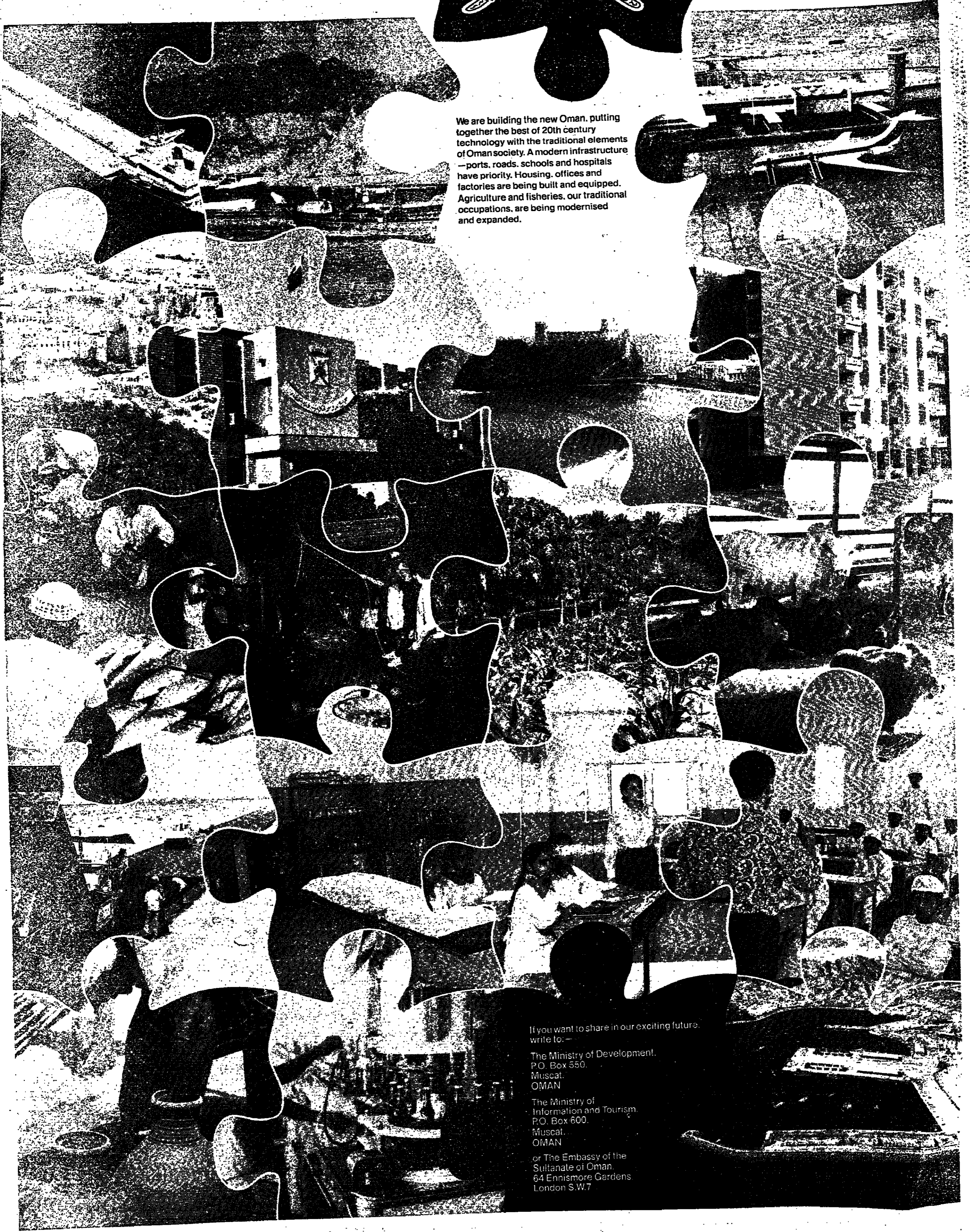
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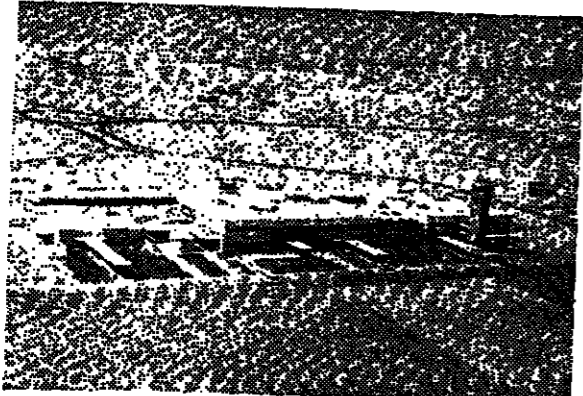
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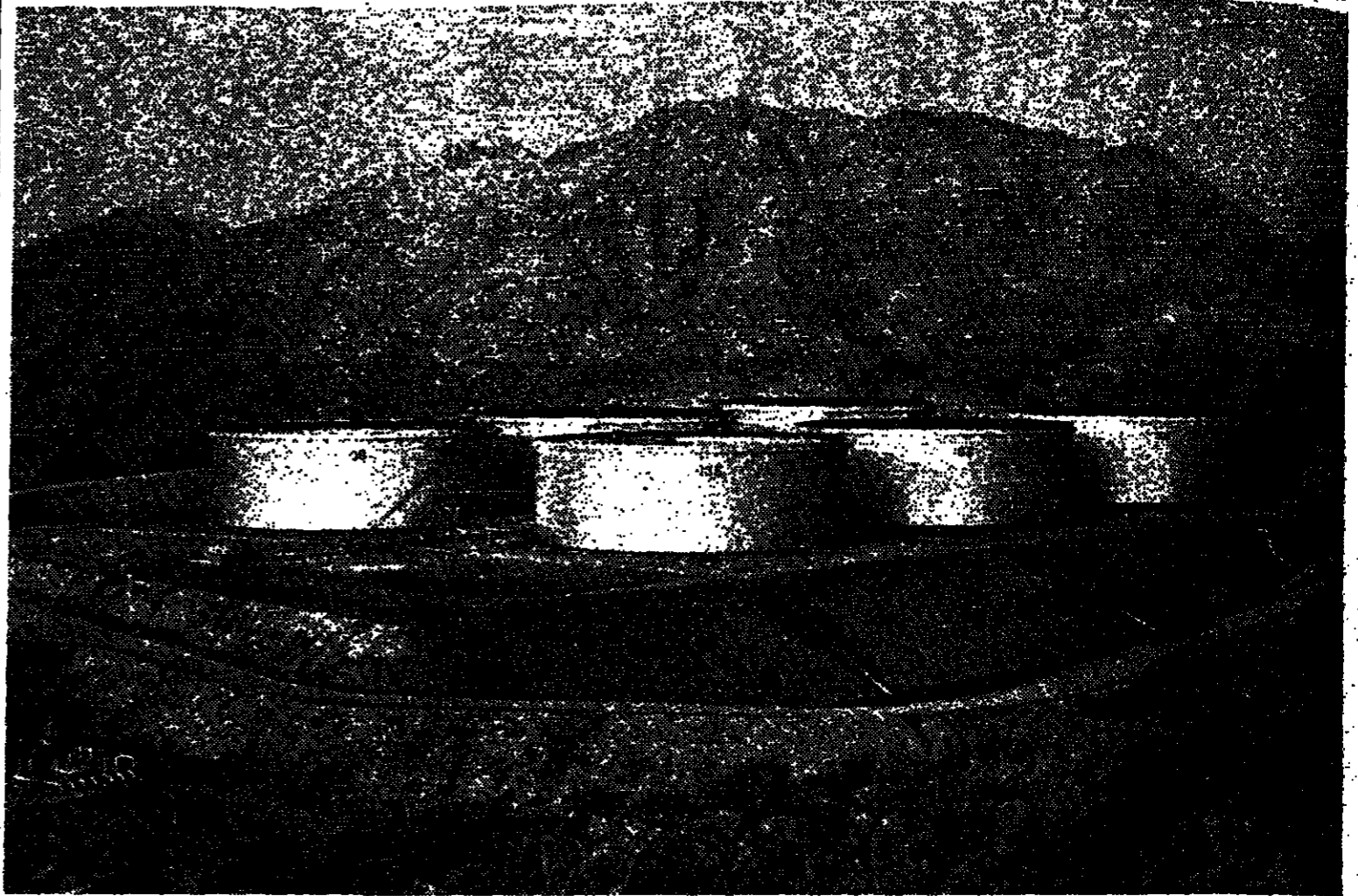
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Unlike other oil states in the region, Oman has no large surplus of oil revenue, its income being fully committed to development and defence. Ralph Izzard takes a look at the oil industry and its prospects



Crude oil piped from as far away as the edge of the Empty Quarter is stored in these tanks at Mina al-Fahh on the Gulf of Oman.

Government poised to transform economy before the fields dry up

The history of oil exploration and development in Oman, which dates back 50 years, contains more than the usual quota of setbacks and harassments even by Middle East standards, but today crude production runs at a respectable 295,000 barrels a day. About 90,000 more barrels daily of low sulphur crude are expected to be available by the end of 1976.

About 212m rials will this year accrue to the Government from oil towards its total budget of 220m rials, emphasizing the Government's almost total dependence on the industry. In spite of the efforts of various other combinations of companies and individuals, Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) is today the sole producer.

The Government is neither a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) nor of the Organization of the Arab Petroleum Producing Countries (Apec)—but in July this year, by mutual agreement, it acquired 60 per cent ownership of the company. The foreign shareholding is now reduced to Shell, 34 per cent; Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (CFP), 4 per cent; and Partex, 2 per cent.

When PDO was reconstituted in 1960 the sharehold-

ing had been Shell 85 per cent and Partex 15 per cent with CFP later acquiring 10 per cent of the Partex holding.

With reserves, within known limits, estimated at 5,250m barrels, supplies may not last beyond the end of the century, but with the world price a barrel doubling and redoubling within barely two years, Oman is now comfortably in funds both to bring to an end the costly anti-guerrilla campaign in the Dhufar province and to transform the economy to the extent that it stands a sporting chance of being independent of oil income within 20 years.

The present producing zone lies about 150 miles south-west of Muscat on the far side of the Hajar mountains and on the fringe of the Empty Quarter.

Early in June, 1972, a return was made to an area about 75 miles south-east of Fahud where previous surveys had indicated the presence of oil but probably not in sufficient quantities to justify development. In July, 1972, however, it was decided to drill three wells at Ghaba, Qarm Alam and Saib Nihayda. Total output of the three is estimated to be 60,000 barrels a day. This will be carried by a 20in spur line to the main line running from Fahud to the coast, which is nearing completion. The new complex is expected to come on stream early next year.

Japan is by far the largest consumer of Oman oil, followed by France, Holland, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Offshore, Wintershall was awarded a concession in 1965 extending along 300 miles of Oman's north-east coast into waters to a depth of 1,000ft and now totalling 20,700 sq km. Drilling was started in March, 1967, but has so far been unsuccessful. Wintershall, with 52.2 per cent, acts as operator and has as partners Shell (20 per cent), Partex (5 per cent), Gelsenberg (12.5 per cent) and Deutsche Schachtbau (10 per cent).

Award to French company

Early in 1973 another consortium headed by Sun Oil (31.25 per cent), with Home Oil of Canada (25 per cent), Canadian Industrial Gas and Oil (31.25 per cent), and Deutsche Schachtbau (12.5 per cent) acquired a 13,000 sq km block off Masrah Island in the Arabian Sea.

Later last year Elf-Erap, the French national company, was awarded a 5,300 sq km area off the Musandam peninsula. Onshore, a concession in Dhufar was granted by the present Sultan's grandfather to the d'Arcy Exploration Group as long ago as 1925 but was allowed to lapse after little effort had been made.

A frustrating hampering exploration has been the discovery of serious faulting in oil-bearing structures by volcanic upheavals produced the Hajar tuffs. The nearer the tuffs, the more serious faults. At Fahud, when eventually brought in, years before had dried up well only a hundred yards away major fault separate two. As the sultanate is 120,000 square miles, a great deal of oil remains to be but the fact that 77 per cent of its concession gests that future discoveries will be small fields than large ones.

Oman, like all other oil states, is looking for expansion of its industry. The American expert appointed Mr C. Sir Snodgrass, an American expert consulting engineer and gas, as his adviser petroleum affairs. Mr grass has been concerned on exploiting gas resources. This September it announced that the 5 Gazcocean of France fertilizer factory and the American corporation Tesoro Petroleum for a liquefaction plant. The present Sultan's grandfather contracts are said to be worth £210m. Gas pipe after little effort had been utilization plant and an tricity generating station.

Critical decision taken

Two small fields in the zone, at Yabil and Natih, were discovered in 1962 but were not then considered likely to justify commercial exploitation. It was not until two years later, when a third survey was made at Fahud, that the critical decision was made to tie the three adjacent fields together and begin construction of a pipeline through the mountains to Mina al-Fahh on the coast just north of Muscat. A fourth field at Al-Huwaisah, 15 miles south

Mountains rich in minerals

by Tim Owen

The craftsmen of Nazwa and other towns and villages of central Oman have for centuries worked in copper mines locally, and the earliest recorded writings about the prosperous past of the seaport of Sohar tell of the copper mining and craft work done by the Omanis. During the present exploration programme, workings that had been in use until approximately 300 years ago have been found in a good state of preservation.

Nobody has really known until now whether these deposits have been of economic significance in modern terms, largely due to their relative inaccessibility because of poor communications. Traces of many other minerals have been found in the mountains of central Oman, hence the name given in Arabic to a large and spectacular cleft in the mountains called the Wadi of Minerals.

Several limited surveys have been carried out during the past 10 years by Shell International. Later, in 1972 and 1973, a team from the Institute of Geological Sciences, financed by the Overseas Development Administration of the Foreign and Commonwealth Relations Office, worked in Oman at the invitation of the Government and conducted a minerals exploration project covering 3,000 sq km in the northern Hajar mountains.

Geochemical sampling was systematically carried out, and a number of sites of ancient copper mining examined and samples were taken. The survey revealed occurrences of copper and chrome. In March, 1973, an agreement was concluded between the Government and the two firms of Prospection of

Canada and Marshall Inc of the United States to set up a partnership for the exploration of minerals in an area of 54,000 sq km, mainly north-west of Muscat. In an amended agreement in 1974 the Government took a 51 per cent shareholding in the venture of exploration and development.

The survey has been chiefly concerned with deposits of copper, chromite, nickel and iron, all of which have been discovered in promising quantities. In early 1974 large quantities of cuprifera sulphides were found as well as traces of other metals.

Later in the same year further massive deposits of high-grade copper were found by the survey, which are easily accessible. The quality of the ore compares favourably with that found in other parts of the world. All these discoveries have been made in the mountains in the north of the sultanate.

Other metals have been discovered in the same area during the survey, including traces of gold and silver. The company has also reported traces of zinc, chrome, iron, nickel and magnesite. The firm of Eternit SAL (Lebanon) holds the concession for an asbestos survey in Oman and, after one year of surveying, it has discovered vermiculite deposits. The rock-bearing samples for their preliminary surveys show high quality asbestos occurring in seams of exceptional thickness.

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فكرنا من الأصل

us of oil
Ralph Iz...

Owen traces the progress of Oman's war against the insurgents and explains its political and strategic significance to the whole Gulf area

Strengthened army slowly turns tables against the rebels

Warfare has been... intensity in Dhufar... than 11 years. What... a local rebellion... against the represen... of Sultan Said... the late Ruler... sultana... developed... ally fledged guerrilla...

...self the People's... the Liberation of... and the Arabian Gulf... aimed, as its... imply, not only... throw the existing... Oman but the re... all of the area of... the Gulf to the... Oman.

...ature of the rebel... when the rebels... withdrew from Aden... West and East Aden... at the end of... What had formerly... frontier be... and the East... Hadramaut Beduin... under the control of... officers, became over... some frontier be... by the People's... Republic... governed by a vir... regime deeply... the sultanate.

...out this time the... Chinese, quick to... the opportunity... situation presented... influence in the... and supplied... training and poli... doctriation cadres, as... military equipmen... heavily equip... People's Front for... beration of Oman and... abian Gulf.

...ilitary situation... orated even though... the Sultan's Armed... to operate in Dhufar... where they had been... usily debarred... far had been run... as a private estate by... Said bin Taimur with... ally recruited... By the middle of... when Sultan Qaboos... sed his father, the... u's forces controlled... Salalah, the capital on... coast, and the surround... coastal plain. The rebels... freedom of movement in... mountainous areas... and the coastal plain, and... here they frequently... to bombard Salalah air... with mortar fire at...

Tribesmen brought over to sultan

...lowly but surely since 1970... military and political... the tables have been... ed against the rebels. Sul... Qaboos and his Govern... have appreciated from... start that the solution to... problem is as much polit... as military, the milita... is vital to gain the initia... irately and be seen to have... upper hand before the... ical solution follows. This... cess is now well ad... ceded.

...mediately on his acces... Sultan Qaboos, stated... the Dhufaris the concess... and rights on which the... rebellion had originally... based. This had the... come effect of bringing... to his side a number... tribesmen who had until... been supporting the... els.

...but by this time the control... scope of the guerrilla war... passed far beyond the as... tions of the Dhufaris, and... ical indoctrination of the... tribesmen in the mou... had a considerable effect... do the war went on... However, the concessions... ated at this time provided... an opportunity to organize... (bands of armed... from those who had... me over to the Sultan... erate in his support. With... ir knowledge of the wild... rugged mountain areas... their deep wadis choked... dense vegetation in... which the guerrillas operate... well as their village... with the local tribesmen... ese firqas, who now num... 20, have proved to be... valuable.

Census will solve population mystery

...Norma Ashworth... by the end of 1974 Oman's... first comprehensive census... survey of the sultanate's... five largest towns will... been completed. The results... are expected to be both... valuable and surprising.

...Population figures in the... past have been arrived at... through a process of intelli... gent guesswork and close... observation, not greatly... helped by the information... put forward by the inhabi... tants. The Omanis believe... their population to be... greater than a million;... foreign observers consider... that 600,000 is a more... realistic figure.

...The explanations for dis... parities (in tiny villages as... well as in towns) are com... plex. Despite the outward... appearance of a changed way... of life and a modern out... look shared by these most... adaptable of peoples, tra... ditions of well-intentioned... duplicity persist.



Soldiers of the Sultan's army wait for transport back to Salalah after a tour of duty fighting rebels in Dhufar.

and orphans of those killed in the mountains, many of whom had earlier been indoctrinated by the communists, and now being educated in their own country. A steady expansion and modernization of the armed forces over the past four years has gone hand in hand with a drive to wrest the initiative from the rebels in Dhufar. Salalah and the entire coastal plain are now secure from attack and bombardment, and the rebels driven well back into the mountains and towards the frontier of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Previously the Sultan's Armed Forces were unable to maintain their positions in the mountains during the monsoon rains which last from June to September, and retired to the coastal plain during this period. For the last two monsoons they have succeeded not only in holding their positions but in maintaining a line which divides the rebel positions 50km from the border of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, but in seriously hampering the rebel resupply operations which normally take place during the monsoon.

As a result of this policy of attrition the rate of voluntary surrenders by communist rebels has more than doubled in the last year. The support to the ground forces given by the completely re-equipped air force of the Sultan of Oman has been increasingly effective with low level attack support against enemy positions, as well as supply and casualty evacuation services by helicopter, and most recently shore bombardment by the new Sultan of Oman's navy has increased pressure on the rebels' lines of communication.

The composition of the Sultan's Armed Forces on his accession presented Sultan Qaboos with considerable headaches. The air force and naval wings were almost vestigial anyway. The army was almost entirely officered by British seconded and contract officers with a few Pakistanis at lower administrative levels. The other

ranks were rather more than half Baluchis, recruited through the port of Gwadar which formerly belonged to Oman on the other side of the Gulf of Oman. The recruitment of Arab soldiers was difficult. How the army operated at all was a miracle, as the Baluchis could speak neither Arabic nor English, the British could speak no Baluch and little if any Arabic, and the Arabs could speak neither English nor Baluch.

It was a mercenary army, part of the policy of Sultan Said bin Taimur, and regarded as such by Omanis, which explains their attitude towards recruitment. It is hardly surprising against this background that some of the Baluchis were not enthusiastic over operating against the rebels in Dhufar.

A process of "Omanization" of the Sultan's Armed Forces, to which the Sultan attaches great importance, is now in full swing, though this will take time to work through to the senior echelons. The strength of the Sultan's Armed Forces in 1970 was just under 4,000 men. This has now grown to 12,000 including the firqas. In 1970 the army consisted of three regiments—equivalent in strength to British army battalions—a small artillery unit and transport and medical detachments, as well as the Oman gendarmerie, a paramilitary force employed on patrolling the coast and land borders. The air force consisted of 34 pilots, seconded from the RAF, and a small civilian maintenance staff operating some ancient Provost and Beaver aircraft, while the navy comprised two armed dhows.

Now the land forces of the Sultan's Armed Forces have been trebled, with seven infantry regiments equipped with the latest weapons and ancillary equipment, a strong artillery force equipped for mountain warfare, an armoured car squadron and highly efficient ancillary services. The air force has been completely re-equipped with modern aircraft including helicopters, Skyvans and Defenders, with Strike-masters and Jaguar tactical

support aircraft due to be delivered shortly. The navy, at present with three modern patrol vessels based at the new naval base in Muscat Bay, is shortly to be reinforced with four fast patrol vessels from Britain, two minesweepers from Holland, to be converted into tropical patrol ships, and a supply ship.

Probably the most significant change has been the process of "Omanization". More than 100 Omanis are being commissioned each year either from the ranks or by direct entry. All officer candidates must do at least a year in the ranks, when they can be assessed, often under combat conditions in Dhufar. Basic officer training is at the Sultan's Armed Forces training centre near Muscat, while specialist training is done abroad. Recruit training, which includes general education, is done at the training centre for all the services, but the navy, which has its own training ship, is beginning to do its own training.

Aircrew initial training school

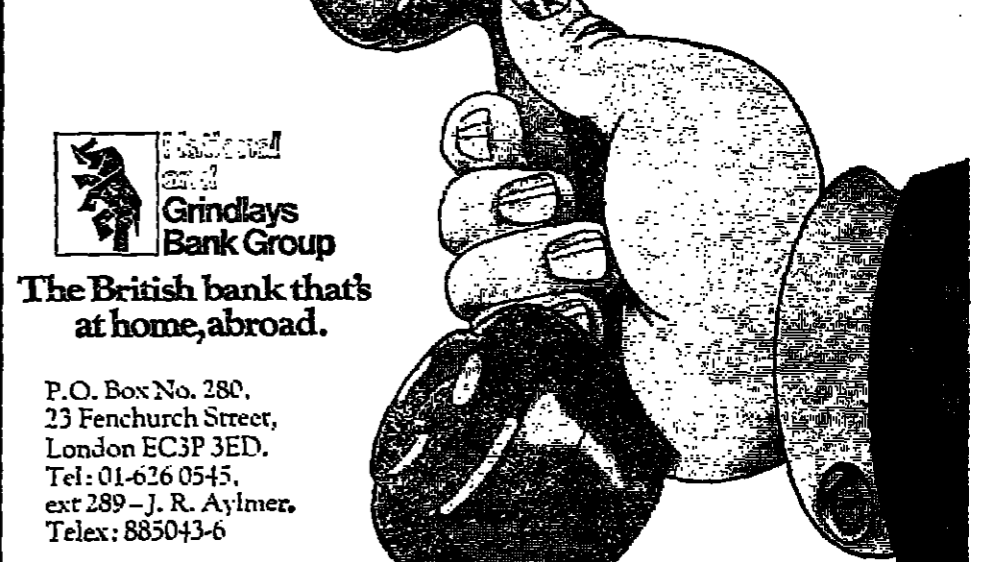
There is also a school for junior leaders. Recently a technical training school for the Sultan of Oman's air force has been opened, and shortly there will be an aircrew initial training school. This then is the military strategy which is being pursued to combat and overcome the enemy in Dhufar. A mercenary army has had to be transformed into a national army, which takes time, and the calibre of the manpower improved. At the same time the different branches of the services have had to be completely equipped with modern weapons and equipment. The political strategy has been infinitely more tortuous. Iran, which shares the concern and responsibility of Oman in keeping communication out of the Gulf, contributed in a practical manner by supplying helicopters and troops to assist in the operations in Dhufar. The Iranian troops operating independently of the Sul-

tan's Armed Forces successfully opened the road through the Qara mountains between Salalah and Midway. They have now all returned home. This Iranian intervention, albeit with the full agreement of the Oman Government, did not find favour in some Arab circles. Unconfirmed reports in some of the Arab press talk of negotiations going on for the replacement of the Iranian troops from other friendly Arab states. This is all part of more widespread discus-

sions in which attempts are being made to divorce the regime in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen from extraneous communist, principally Russian, influence by means of financial and economic assistance from oil-wealthy Arab states. The way would then be open for a cessation of the support and assistance from the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, which replacement alone sustains the campaign in Dhufar of the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf.

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the teamworkers in Oman

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Four years wipe out four decades of negligence and neglect

by Ralph Izzard

Until Sultan Qaboos assumed power in July 1970, Oman had suffered for four decades under a rigid hierarchy in which social services were virtually non-existent.

For a country of 120,000 sq miles and a population of upwards of 600,000, there were three primary schools, only for boys; no low-cost housing scheme and two hospitals, supplemented in outlying districts by 10 clinics and dispensaries. The hospitals, a general hospital in Matrah and a maternity hospital in Muscat, were run by American missionaries without Government financial support and using their own meagre funds. They could accommodate 140 in-patients.

In the interior, the clinics scarcely justified classification as medical establishments. Many were mere shacks with no pure water, electricity or air-conditioning. A handful of dedicated doctors, with scant medical supplies, strove valiantly to cope with rampant diseases such as malaria, smallpox, tuberculosis and trachoma. In four years this situation has changed dramatically.

Oman is fortunate in that one of the first nationals to return from abroad after the 1970 coup was Dr Asim al-Jamali, at one time the

only qualified Oman doctor. As Minister of Health he has shown remarkable energy and administrative ability. Today, Oman has 15 hospitals, 29 clinics, 46 dispensaries, and 825 hospital beds. The country's medical staff consists of 122 doctors, 291 nurses and 84 health, sanitary and technical assistants.

In 1971, the ministry negotiated an agreement with the two mission hospitals whereby the Government recurrently pays the hospitals' recurrent expenses and subsidizes building renovations and expansion as well as staff wages and equipment. The mission continues to supply staff and conduct routine administration. Three hospitals for which plans existed before 1970 have been completed at Ruwi (now Greater Matrah), Tanam and Salalah, where there is also a military requirement.

The modern Al-Nabha (Renaissance) hospital at Ruwi was completed and fully equipped by the ministry for its opening in February, 1972. It specializes in internal medicine, ophthalmology and dentistry. Petroleum Development Oman's small company hospital at Mina al-Fahel was relinquished to the Government this year and is undergoing a five expansion to

increase capacity to 120 beds. The World Health Organization has been of tremendous assistance to the Ministry of Health. It has provided financial assistance, and/or complete sponsorship of medical scholarships, for young Omanis, male and female, who have gone abroad for higher studies.

The Government's health budget is now well in excess of £2m. To shelter the needy, about 200 low-cost houses have been completed in Northern Oman and a further 800 are due for completion next year. The programme envisages 200 houses annually in various regions of the country.

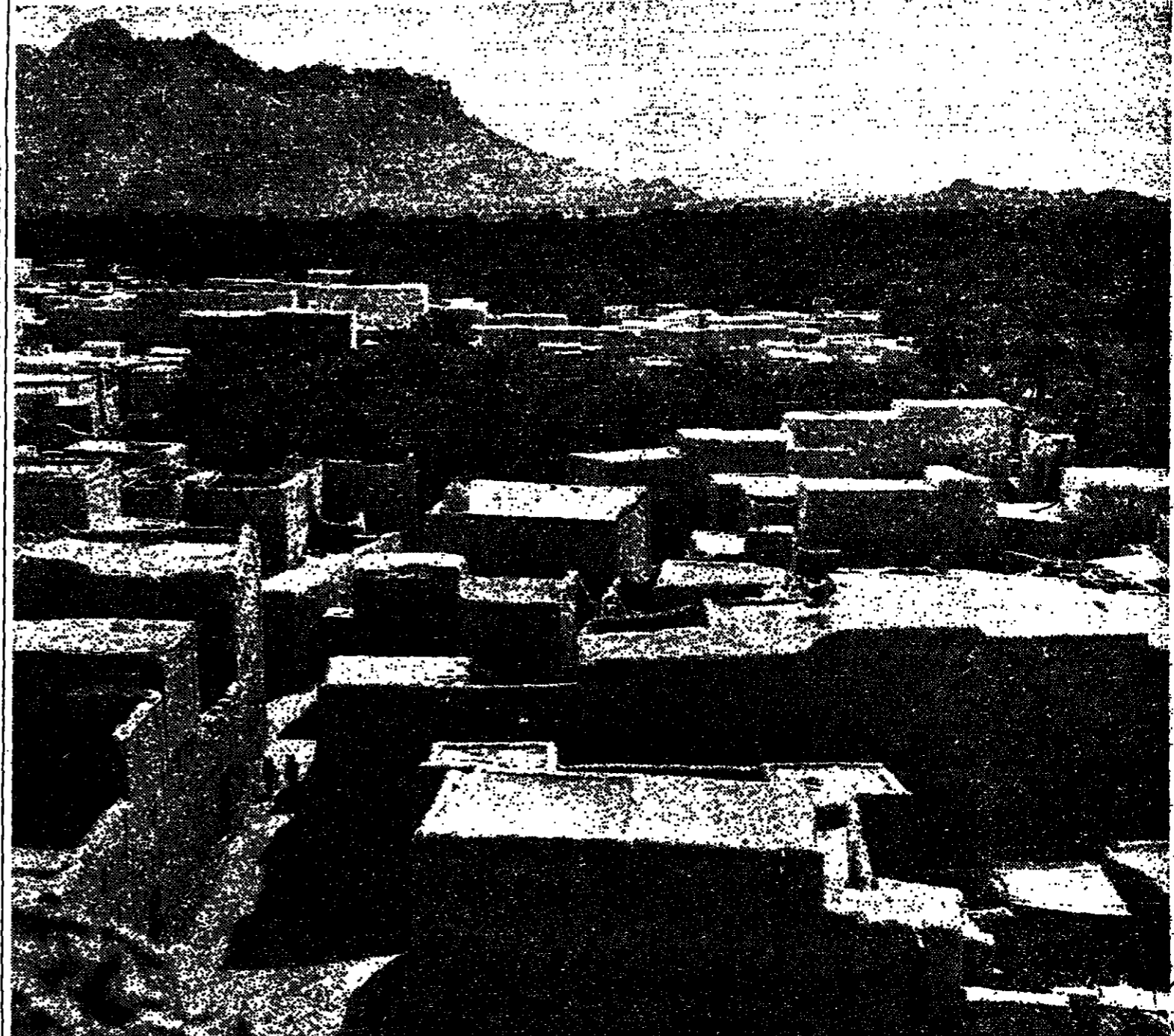
Houses are sold at the cost of 4,000 rials to 5,000 rials, to be repaid over 15 years in the case of those in the 75 rials to 200 rials monthly group and 20 years in the 30 rials to 75 rials group. If the buyer becomes sick or unemployed, terms are modified. Should he die, his heirs are offered the house.

One of the showpieces of the new Oman is to be a new township of upwards of 1000 homes for those with higher incomes. The format is described as "executive style living for the growing professional classes of Oman, as well as for expatriates who will be assisting

immense strides have been made in expanding Oman's educational system over the past four years. The three primary schools for boys which were permitted by the former Sultan Sa'id have grown to 110. These include six preparatory schools and one secondary school. The number of pupils has reached 34,830, of whom 7,653 are girls. There are 1,225 teachers, of whom 225 are women.

In the early days of the crash educational programme instituted by Sultan Qaboos, many schools operated in temporary and rented accommodation. The shortage of trained teachers was also acute, but this has been largely overcome. Students obtaining a secondary school certificate will be entitled to enter any university in the Arab world without an entrance examination. Petroleum Development Oman established its own trade school in 1967 to train young Omanis as mechanics, electricians and welders for its own use. The school was taken over by the Government in 1971 and is now showing encouraging results after a disheartening beginning when it was found almost impossible to give proper technical training to youngsters who could not read, write, add or subtract.

A special educational effort is being made in troubled Dhufar province. This has 13 boys' schools and seven for girls. The capital, Salalah, has a fine new school which will eventually have places for 740 boys with accommodation for 250 boarders. There are 110 boarders, all of whom have lost their fathers in the mountain fighting against guerrillas based over the border in South Yemen.



The traditional mud and brick house, seen in Nazwa, is yielding to modern building in many districts.

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Schools' temporary accommodation

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Building boom that left planners behind

by Norma Ashworth

In the sentimental view of the foreigner Oman looked better before modern buildings began to change the landscape. This is always the paradox of development. Those who bring with them the means of irrevocable change and introduce the ways of a different society are the first to deplore the loss of an ancient country's essential character.

Their vision of diminishing charm is not shared by the inhabitant, only too enthusiastic to exchange his picturesque mud-brick house for a concrete bungalow and the joys of running water and air-conditioning.

In four years Oman has made a start on the alteration of the landscape without placing too much emphasis on the need for preserving aesthetic values.

The Ministry of Communications and Public Services, faced with the immense task of building houses, offices and factories to accommodate the people responsible for Oman's regrowth, made sweeping changes and gave permission for a variety of dissimilar building projects.

The result is far from chaotic in terms of providing accommodation; that has been remarkably successful. It is the visual confusion that gives an impression that the building boom left the planners behind. Only now that the first phase of government priority is easing into a scheme of more general provision of houses is the need for coherent

settlements being closely considered. The first programme of building included no housing in the private sector under the authority of the Government. The proliferation of new ministries, directorates and departments within the Government itself demanded staff buildings and houses on a scale that occupied fully the first three years of the new administration. By the end of last year 342 flats, 12 villas and seven office buildings had been provided and by the early part of this year the Government was able to introduce schemes for low-cost housing.

Almost 1,000 simple dwellings (in northern Oman and Dhufar province) have already been completed and contracts have been signed for the construction of a further 800 at Khweir (in the area of the airport, north-west of Muscat).

Private building enterprise has kept pace with the Government, winning contracts for residential areas connected with the many foreign firms operating in the sultanate. There has also been much speculative building round the capital areas of Muscat and Matrah—undertakings lacking any essence of risk, where the influx of business concerns has created a desperate housing shortage.

The most spectacular of the country's housing schemes is the building of a completely new town, called

Medinat Qaboos. In his National Day address two years ago the Sultan made the first mention of this ambitious project which, just a year later, had the first of its show houses open to the public and practically every one of its 1,000 proposed houses spoken for. Today it is an excitingly beautiful collection of houses, modern in concept yet with echoes of old Arab architecture, perched on varying levels close to the sea at Qurum—a middle point between Muscat to the east and Sib, the airport to the west.

As a scheme, Medinat Qaboos had a double purpose, to help with housing problems and to prevent the encroachment of the old city of Muscat. The pressure of new business concerns arriving in Muscat, as the capital, was being fatally disfigured. It was hoped that the new town would divert the building pressure and eventually coax the resettlement of offices.

So far, the housing side has been outstandingly successful, even with buying prices at upwards of £50,000, but the business area has yet to be developed.

By any standards the houses at Medinat Qaboos, designed as a split scheme with different architecture on two opposite sites with symmetry, have left their mark in fortresses and watch-towers, but there are also many

fine old mansions standing, in Muscat and elsewhere. Those who have been ousted later by rich chieftains. The five remaining houses of Muscat are to have been conserved much earlier on an plan but are now being as having been constructed in the early with Indian as well as Portuguese influences identifiable. The nomadic people have always built shelters of reeds and the front of the date. They are still very much evidence on the edges of these structures are provide interest for the intricacy of their work. Different tribes show features for the pattern facing the stems and usually a pleasing pit in contrast to the old towns which follow the card of packing cases building sites.

New regulations have been made to control development of obviously unsuitably random settlements and Oman is having to find new ways of finding space for a house. The of land is generously—even for lease premises land is cost a nominal amount—the type of housing put up on it is now the concern of municipal authority in a way unknown before the present regime.

Tarmac Construction reclaim land for a new Naval Base in Oman.



There was a time when the rockface fell sheer to the sea at Muscat. But not now. Tarmac Construction were contracted to build the Qa' Adat Sultan Bin Ahmed Al Bahria, a Naval Base for the Defence Ministry of Oman. This involved reclaiming land and on it building an approach road and sea wall before carrying out extensive

civil engineering work for the building of the harbour wall, slipway and dry dock. Then came the buildings. Thirteen in all and after that roads and external services and finally the laying of tetrapods to further strengthen the sea wall. Tarmac work extensively throughout the Gulf either independently or through their partners in the Middle East,

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companies play vital role in developing nation

which amounted to £12.5m a year but which ceased in 1967. From this subsidy the arms, equipment and transport for the Sultan's Armed Forces were purchased through the Crown Agents in London. Now Britain is the biggest supplier of military equipment, including naval and air force to the SAF which has greatly expanded since Sultan Qaboos came to power in 1970.

British exports to Oman have risen sharply since 1967, and reflect the prosperity which has come to the country, particularly since the rapid expansion of the economy which started in 1970. In the years from 1963 to 1967 British exports to Oman rose from 1.2m to 2.3m. By end of 1973 they had risen to £22.2m and it is estimated that the figure for 1974 will be approaching £30m.

The main dutiable items exported from Britain to Oman are transport equipment, machinery, metal manufactures, and iron and steel. In 1973 transport equipment valued at nearly £7m accounted for 30 per cent of British exports to Oman. These consisted mostly of Bedford trucks, Range Rovers and Land Rovers, many of which are ordered by the SAF, though many also go to commercial users for trade in the interior where road conditions are still poor. Unhappily Britain has not shared in the boom in cars, where the market has been almost entirely seized by the Japanese.

A British car is a rare sight in Oman. Exports of electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances at just

over £3m accounted for just 13 per cent, and other machinery at slightly under £2m for 12 per cent. Iron and steel, another major British export, were worth £1.5m or almost 7 per cent of British total exports to Oman.

It has not been possible to give an entirely accurate assessment of British exports to Oman, as the Omani authorities have only recorded the imports which are dutiable, these being mainly consumer goods. All imports for government departments, public sector projects and Petroleum Development (Oman) are non-dutiable. This accounts for a big slice of the imports. It is hoped that from January the Omani authorities will publish full details of all imports from which a clearer and more accurate picture will emerge.

In assessing British trade with Oman there are important factors other than the straightforward export of manufactured goods and other materials which must be taken into consideration. British firms and consultants have major contracts in many spheres of the current development programme, which includes building projects, road and airfield construction, and radio and television.

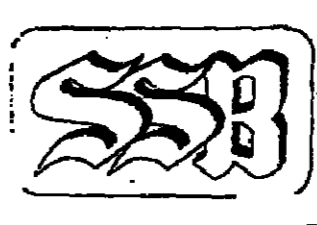
The biggest single item of the development programme is the twin townships of Muscat and Matrah. For this John R. Harris are the architects, Scott Wilson Kierpatrick are the consulting engineers and Wides & Trollope the quantity surveyors. Richard Costain built the £1.8m stadium outside the capital where today's National Day celebrations will be held.

Sir William Halcrow & Partners are the consulting engineers for the great new port of Muscat, with its eight deepwater berths at Matrah which is approaching completion. The new dual carriageway sea road at Matrah which was completed in 1973 had Sir Lindsay Parkinson & Co as its contractors.

Happily the old walled town of Muscat is to have its attractiveness restored by a £5m restoration programme the contractors for which are Taylor Woodrow Towell, a company recently formed by Taylor Woodrow International and W. J. Towell of Oman. The same group is involved in a £20m contract designed to take the pressure off existing built-up areas by building a new town at Qurum near Muscat. This new town is being built to the design of Michael Brashier Associates, the London architects.

In Dhufar a five-year programme for the modernization of the town of Salalah has been announced, and Sir William Halcrow & Partners have been commissioned as consulting engineers to supervise the construction of a new town centre with commercial offices, shops, municipal buildings, government housing, a hospital and a new airport.

Taylor Woodrow Towell has a contract for road building in the plain of Salalah as well as for the improvement of a 100-mile stretch of roads between Buraimi and Ibbri in the north of the Sultanate. George Wimpey, who won the first big building contract in Oman for the P.D.(O) housing estate at Ras al Hamra, has a £2.4m



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Government's confidence in industrial future

development in Oman had to make a slow when Sultan Qaboos power in 1970, his ne of change listed priorities, with education, housing ds at the top. A confident of an g revenue from oil to have no pressing a diversified econ-

soon recognized that ce upon oil s might mean fluctu- prosperity and would y mean curbing the e's capacity for g change. The deci- l Development Organi- which was given wide to plot the country's y soon became the y of Development, its implicit in its title e number of direc- and departments n the past two years. e industrial side, 1974 a the major progress. ow be accepted that an industrial future an—a by no means progression from a agricultural side (Hme's) on dates and Hme's) ubsequent climb into ship with other oil- ing Gulf countries. Is- is new but predicted g measurably success- terms of government s within four years.

first main non-oil in- ut was the setting up ment factory which is id to produce 600,000 year. Omanis hold 51 of the share capital e remaining 49 per- divided equally be- the Associated Port- ment Manufacturing ementia Holdings of . The factory is under ction and expected to erational early next . The Government of n is discussing the le export capacity of the domestic demands sultanate.

biggest of the country's is will still have its in the oil industry but evelop and expand the



Silo station of marine cement at Muscat. The first main non-oil investment was the setting up of a cement factory.

possibilities of the natural gas resources. A fertilizer complex and a liquefaction plant costing in the region of £210m are to be set up early next year. Gasconan of France have the contract for the fertilizer factory and an American corporation, Tesoro Petroleum, will be building the liquefaction plant. The Oman Government will have a majority share in both enterprises.

A pipeline from the petroleum gas fields in the interior will feed the fertilizer plant, which will provide raw material for a planned 2,000 tons of ammonia and urea a day. A new sea water desalination plant and electricity generating plant will also be fuelled by the same project.

With the opening of new oil fields in the interior and a projected rise of 40 per cent on the present output of 300,000 barrels of crude oil a day by 1976, the use of natural gas is being discussed for rubber and petrochemical plants. There is also the possibility of an oil refinery.

Most industries of the future will be dependent upon a favourable source of water and this is an subject wherever industrial development is contemplated. A survey is being carried out by four separate European companies on the future of Oman's natural water supply. The results of their investigations will decide whether or not the establishment of a cane sugar refinery on the fertile Batinah Coast is feasible.

A start has been made on raising the capital for Oman's first flour mill, for which a site has been found at Ibbri, in Marrah. The Government is to have a 20 per cent interest and the remaining 80 per cent of the shares are being offered solely to Omani nationals. The project will cost 2.5m rials. This supporting project, the provision of grain silos, is being financed solely by the Government at a cost of 1m rials.

Two soft drink factories have opened this year, using imported concentrate to pro-

duce cola, squash, tonic and lemonade. They have made a successful enough start for the Government to have stopped the importation of the same varieties of drink, except under special licence. The output from the factories is expected to cope with the country's needs at a cost to the consumer of roughly half that of the imported brands.

In southern Oman, in Sur, the old industry of boat-building has been revived, with government help, and has given a new impetus to the business life of this old port which was once an important market for India's malabar wood trade.

The most visibly spectacular of Oman's industries is construction work. The main part is being handled by large foreign contractors but Omani building firms are winning more contracts for jobs classified as "first class".

Under new laws formulated early this year, all firms operating in Oman must have Omani representation, so that there is participation in all development projects. In the building trade, however, two of the most successful contractors, firms are totally Omani companies.

Industries on a small scale, outside the more potentially prosperous primary industries of fisheries, agriculture and minerals, have built up to such an extent in only two years that factories are contributing to the building boom as much as houses.

The factories, carpentry and joinery workshops and metal industries are spreading in the areas around Muscat. The traditional arts and handicrafts of pottery, weaving and copper ware are becoming the chief sources of prosperity in the districts away from the capital.

An indication of the confidence felt by the Government in planning an industrial future was the establishment this year of the country's first analytical laboratory under the new Department of Quality Control and Specifications within the Directorate of Industry. N.A.

Technological revolution ends seclusion

1970 Oman was as difficult of access as any country in the world. Ex-Sultan had pursued a rigid of exclusion. Along entire 1,000 miles of coast line there were no port cargo vessels could against a quayside. No worth the name had carved through the rains to the outside . The small airport Muscat was a tiny island, surrounded by jagged rains that nervous passers closed their eyes in x during the approach e touchdown.

was not that the ex- an lacked money. In the two years of his rule e nearly \$60m had ued in oil revenues. Lit- had been spent. Five s of tarmac had been t between Muscat, the tal, and it twin town of rrah. An inadequate air station had been t between the two towns. ttle desultory work had n done to improve ship- ore unloading facilities vtrah.

In the past four years under an Qaboos have seen ntentous developments. A port with an inner in for coastal vessels and berths for ocean vessels e been created in Matrah y. It is now in full op- ion and can handle 00,000 tons of cargo a . The project, which has t £20m, was a spectacular e. Consultant engineers e Sir William Halcrow d Partners, and contrac-

tors were a joint venture between Hochtief of West Germany, and Six Construct, a consortium of Belgian, Dutch, French and Spanish firms based in Brussels.

On the north-west flank of Matrah Bay, where the mountains rise sheer from the sea, millions of tons of rock were blasted to form a 42-acre area of hardstanding for storage and warehousing. The whole is protected by a 2,300ft breakerwater, armoured on its seaward side by 10,000 wts dispersing "stabilis" each weighing 15 tons and moulded in concrete at a casting yard near by.

A small five-berth harbor is in operation at Rayhut, 14 miles east of Salalah, main base for operations against the guerrillas lurking in the southern Dhofar province. This port was designed and built by Taylor Woodrow International and is protected by a 1,360ft breakerwater. Built for small trading and coastal vessels, it handled more than 100,000 tons of cargo from its opening in October, 1973, to the start of the monsoon last June. Plans are now being completed for a considerable expansion of the port and development of the surrounding area. Further north, berthing facilities and protected anchorages are also being planned both at the ancient port of Sur and at Sohar.

A fine new airport was opened last year at Seeb on the coastal plain, about 20

miles north-west of Muscat. The £5m contract was awarded to Joannow and Paraskevades (of Nicosia) with Kipparick (International) as technical subcontractors and design work and supervision by NV Naco (Netherlands Airport Consultants).

The runway is 10,000ft long with capability of a further 2,000ft extension. It can be used by Boeing 747s and has already been visited by Concorde on a demonstration flight. Nine major international airlines make regular visits and from this month Gulf Air, in which Oman has a 25 per cent shareholding, is to make six VC10 visits each week. The terminal buildings have separate accommodation for international and domestic flights and a cargo terminal that can be enlarged as traffic increases.

Down at Salalah, where the dirt strip was formerly used only by military aircraft, a 5,000ft tarmac runway has been laid which is also now used six times a week by Gulf Air civil aircraft. Future plans include an extension of the runway to 12,000ft with an instrument landing system, as at Seeb, to assist aircraft during the heavy monsoon mists.

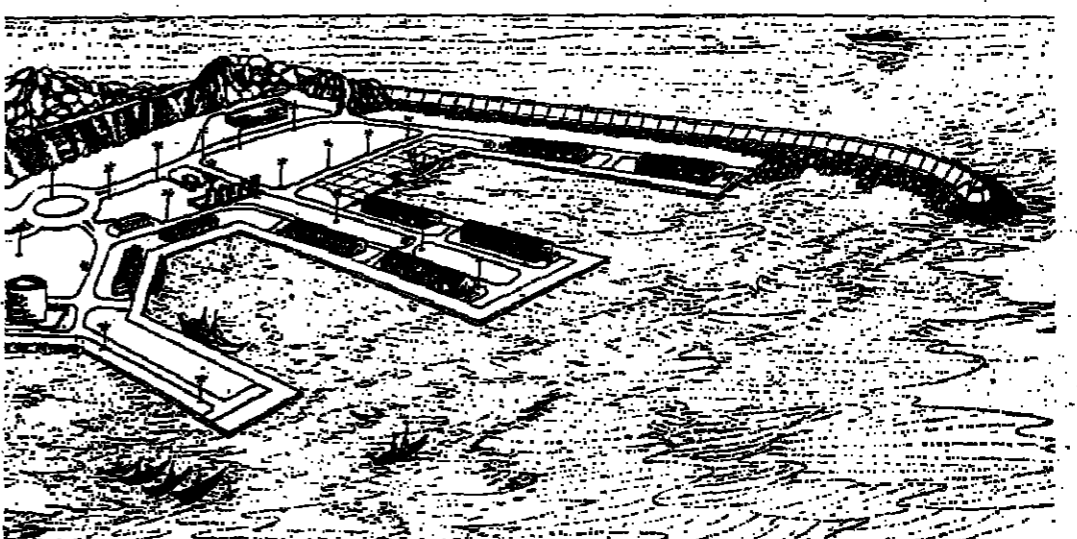
Under Sultan Qaboos there has been a tremendous surge in road building. By the middle of this year Oman had 250 miles of first-class asphalt roads and a further 2,500 miles of graded roads with maintained natural surfaces. Besides urban networks round Muscat, Marrah and Salalah, a main coastal road has been laid over the 150 miles from Muscat to Sohar in the north.

This road has now been extended a further 50 miles northwards to the border with the United Arab Emirates at Khatmat al Malalah and Aswad. It links with the UAE's main road system leading through Fujairah and Sharjah to Dubai, with its great port, and Abu Dhabi. Sohar is now being connected by a tarmac road inland to Buraimi and Al Ain, in Abu Dhabi state, a difficult project which will take 1-2 more years to complete. From Al Ain, Abu Dhabi town is now easily reached within 100 minutes.

From Seeb, another major project under construction will give access to Nizwa in the interior which will ultimately be continued to Ibbri and thence to Buraimi and Al Ain.

A special road-building effort is being made in Dhofar province, not purely for strategic military purposes, but also as part of the Government's "hearts and minds" policy to win over remote villages by bringing in supplies, providing health and other services and giving the inhabitants easier access to local markets for their produce.

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Research in agriculture is resulting in improved seed strains and greater success in fighting pests and disease.

Farm centres aid widespread changes

by Tim Owen

Until the end of 1967, when oil began to be produced, agriculture was the backbone of the Oman economy. Eighty per cent of the population was employed on the land, most of them smallholders owning a few hectares of land.

With the advent of the oil industry this proportion has remained almost unchanged. The production of oil employs relatively few people and most of these are skilled; only in the construction stage of the industry are many unskilled workers required, and in Oman for local reasons most of these are Beduin, not agriculturists.

The lifespan of the oil industry is strictly limited, and particularly so in Oman where the proven reserves of oil are comparatively small. For this reason alone the Oman Government is investing large sums from its oil revenues in the future of agriculture.

The climate and the nature of the land in Oman present agriculture with great problems. Much of the country consists of barren, rocky mountains, and of the remainder the great proportion is gravel plains and deserts.

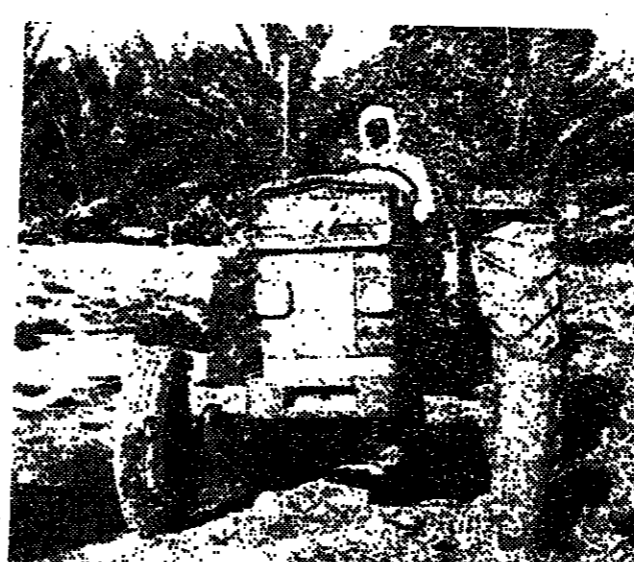
The rainfall is everywhere inadequate, irregular and extremely variable. Only over the mountains is there any considerable rainfall, and much of this falls in the form of heavy local storms, the waters of which run off uselessly down the wadis in sudden spates into the sea.

Agriculture is therefore entirely dependent on ground water, which is found mostly along the foot of the mountains and in the valleys of the Gulf of Oman. These underground reservoirs of water are greater than might be expected as most of the Hajar range of mountains are porous limestone.

The Omanis tap the underground reserves of water by well and by the *falaj* system. The date gardens of the Batinah coast are entirely dependent on well water for their irrigation. Here the water table is about 8ft below the surface and the farmers use small diesel engines for operating their pumps.

Salinity due to seepage of seawater is apt to present a problem at times, particularly in times of sustained drought when it is common though date palms will tolerate a high degree of brackishness. But there is a limit to the tapping of underground reserves of water in these regions.

The *falaj* system of irrigation is found among the valleys in the mountains along the base of the foothills. It was introduced into Oman by the Persians many centuries ago. Water is tapped at springs or at the level of the water table and led



Farmers, like this one near Nazwa, can borrow equipment from the authorities.

by artificial underground channels to the villages and areas of cultivation, where it is brought to the surface and distributed by surface channels to the gardens according to a strict rota system. The flow of water in the *falaj* is very consistent, varying little even in times of drought, and they rarely dry up. Irrigation by this system is often backed up with well water.

Another problem is that where the supplies of water are most abundant along the Batinah coast the soil is sandy and of indifferent quality, whereas the best soil is found along the foot of the mountains where the water resources are more unreliable and scarcer.

It is estimated that about 36,000 hectares of land are under cultivation. Dates which are grown along the Batinah coast and in the foothills of the mountains account for 37 per cent of the country's agricultural output. The dates of the Batinah coast are of lesser quality than those of the interior, but ripen one month earlier.

Lucerne, a clover-like plant used for fodder, provides 15 per cent of output and limes and onions 10 per cent each. The limes which are largely for export, are grown exclusively along the Batinah coast, mostly towards the northern end. Tobacco, bananas, pawpaws, mangoes and other citrus fruits are grown among the date gardens of the Batinah coast. Coconuts are grown exclusively around Salalah in the south, the only place in the Arabian peninsula where coconuts are grown.

Wheat is grown in the months after good rains in the plains around Nazwa. On the high plateau of Jabal Akhdar fruits such as peaches, apricots, walnuts, figs and pomegranates are as fertilizer. The stretch given off by these piles of drying fish is overwhelming. After the accession of Sultan Qaboos in 1970 a department of fisheries was set up within the Ministry of Development to study and develop a fisheries industry in the sultanate. Early in 1972 a project of far-reaching consequences was launched; the Mardela International, of California, was given a \$2m contract to undertake all onshore and offshore research with a view to setting up such an industry. This was to include processing plants, preserving and canning facilities and a scheme to improve fishing techniques.

Fish promises new source of profit

It has long been known that rich fishing grounds exist off the coasts of the Sultanate of Oman, both in the Gulf of Oman and in the Indian Ocean. Until now these have not been exploited except by local fishermen, though fishing fleets from Japan and the Soviet Union have occasionally operated in the Gulf of Oman.

A curious feature of the local market has been that a tribe of Beduin, the Jenaba, have by tradition played a large part in it, bringing up dried fish from the south coast by camel to the populated areas of central Oman around Nazwa to trade for dates.

In the Gulf of Oman at certain seasons of the year great shoals of sardines come close inshore where they are netted and then put out in heaps along the shore to dry in the sun before being sold

as fertilizer. The stretch given off by these piles of drying fish is overwhelming. After the accession of Sultan Qaboos in 1970 a department of fisheries was set up within the Ministry of Development to study and develop a fisheries industry in the sultanate. Early in 1972 a project of far-reaching consequences was launched; the Mardela International, of California, was given a \$2m contract to undertake all onshore and offshore research with a view to setting up such an industry. This was to include processing plants, preserving and canning facilities and a scheme to improve fishing techniques.

An anchovy vessel, the Darbat, was bought by the Government in 1973 and was brought from Peru. The vessel, 102ft long, is equipped for scientific marine exploration. Crewed mainly by Omanis, she is being used for the collection of deep sea and coastal water data. The first stage of the survey was completed at the end of last year and recommendations were made on the future of Oman's marine resources. Training specialists have been sent from the United States to instruct Omani fishermen in modern methods. Meanwhile Mardela, while continuing to supervise the project, has been joined by two other American firms, FMC International and Del Monte International for assessing long-term development.

At the same time practical progress has been made. In Subar, a thriving town at the northern end of the Batinah coast on the Gulf of Oman, an ice factory and cold store for the handling and processing of fish has been constructed. Dried and salted fish from this plant are already being distributed in the markets throughout Oman.

Among the proposals of the final survey report, due to be published early next year, is the establishment of modern fish markets and cold storage facilities in Muscat, Matrah and Nazwa. Dhufar province, in the deep south, has the sultanate's richest fisheries potential. The inhabitants of the Kuria Muria islands, a barren group off the coast of Dhufar, have long made a living from the sea. Here the waters are particularly rich in sardines, and a canning industry is being planned. Ross of Bahrain and the Darwish organization are interested in regular purchases of the sardine catch. Excellent crayfish and other molluscs are caught off Masirah island and the southern coast, and in years past messes and military establishments in the Muscat area and elsewhere have benefited from fresh crayfish flown from Masirah. There is scope for development of this side of fishing.

Two date demonstration farms are being established at Nazwa and Tanuf in the interior, as well as demonstration farms for citrus and Batinah coast and a multipurpose cannery. A central research station is being set up at Rumais, and a live-also been established. Oman is known to have considerable underground reserves of water and these have recently been investigated by large-scale survey. The reserves are not, however, limitless and will have to be used carefully if they are not to be exhausted or affected by salinization. There is clearly scope for increasing the area of land under cultivation—abandoned villages and deserted fields in the interior, where the water supply has failed, bear witness to this. However, it is probable that greater benefit will be gained by improving the methods of farming on land already under cultivation, the control of plant disease and the introduction of better strains of seeds and the use of fertilizers. Oman can make itself to a great degree self-supporting for food with scope for export

Before 1970 there were two government farms for experimental purposes, one at Nazwa in the interior, and the other at Sohar on the coast. They did much valuable work locally in advising farmers on improving their methods and helping in pest control, but were inadequate for the needs of the country. In 1971 two new experimental farms were opened at Wadi Quriyat in the interior and at Rumais on the Batinah coast near Sib, and in 1973 the two original experimental farms at Nazwa and Sohar were converted into production farms. Soon afterwards another production farm was opened at Rumais to meet the acute shortage of fodder and vegetable short-cuts in the area of the opening of a further two experimental farms.

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Museum traces cultural heritage from the Stone Age

Conservation of the artefacts collected at the Muscat office of Mr Andrew Williamson, Director of Antiquities, was also organized from London with the help of the British Museum and the Horniman Museum, while the British Museum provided research and conservation work on a selection of Oman manuscripts.

The display opens with the first 10,000 years of Oman history, from the Stone Age through the first pottery and Bronze Age cultures of the fourth and third millennium BC. The most striking remains from the third millennium are the fine masonry tomb structures common in northern Oman, and only recently excavated. The links be-

tween this culture and comparable ones in the United Arab Emirates, southern Iran and Mesopotamia of about 4,000 years ago are examined in the light of this new archaeological evidence, and carefully constructed models of these burials are on display.

A panel on the first millennium BC frankincense port of Khor Ruri in Dhufar follows. This was known to the Greeks as Moscha and was famed throughout the ancient world. Old South Arabian inscriptions remain there to this day. Next comes a pictorial montage of the strange and entertaining rock carvings of animals (some now extinct in Oman, such as the baboon) and warriors in which Oman is particularly rich.

The principal ground floor displays show the richness of Oman's agricultural and mineral resources and

the commerce which has sprung both from them and from Oman's geographical position, very strategic for the conduct of trade between the Gulf, India, the Far East and East Africa.

Oman's expanding horizons are shown historically, from the early copper trade with the Sumerians, through the frankincense trade, tenth century AD Sohar's trade with China, fourteenth century Qalhat, culminating in the fruitful unification of coastal and interior Oman under the great Ya'aribah and al-Bu Said dynasties of the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries, a period of considerable influence and commercial prosperity. The parallel development of Muscat and the different and distinctive types of Oman seagoing vessels are included as adjuncts to this historical display.

Upstairs the nature of

Oman's Islamic heritage is conveyed with an exhibition of the work of Oman historians and other literary figures. A pictorial comment on the dignified simplicity of Oman mosques leads into the architecture room in which the emphasis is laid on the design and decorative features of the great Ya'aribah fort in the interior at Jabrin, which is especially famous for the beauty of its painted ceilings.

A large-scale programme of conservation work is soon to be started on Fort Jabrin, and with the help of initial reports on the state of the fort an accurate scale model was produced in London for this exhibition.

However, the main upstairs display space is devoted to the fine silver, gold and copper work, pottery, weaving and musical instruments included as adjuncts to this historical display.

Oman silver work

is particularly famous and a large representative quantity of the best examples is on display.

Despite trying to give a comprehensive view of Oman's history and character, the museum had only limited space at its disposal and limited time in which to assemble the requisite exhibits and research. But the museum is only the forerunner of a much larger project, the Oman National Museum, which has already been allocated a site which includes one of Muscat's finest old houses. Completion of this ambitious project is expected to take three or four years, and it is hoped that the present Oman Museum provides a first step in its development.

The author is a research assistant and was involved in the planning and design stages of the Oman Museum.

al jewelry that shuns animal and human forms



the principal cost, however, the work-credible in-erent market silver and and myst-icated to t of dealers in the coast hat. Maria-aries little. are the of the jew- the same-ler market he fruit and have torch batteries to ghts. us like fine ch used in rackets, ear-phiials for r eye make- scuring pat- lar riding Persian ined the rose often seen es on the in- which sec- fine mesh strands of

hair-thin silver. Small bell sultanate has been open to foreign shoppers for so few years, the inference must be drawn that the value of Oman's old jewelry was thought to have been quickly apparent. Not that the silks have been drastically depleted of rings or pendants or hair ornaments; it is the concubines' anklets, fine silver chains and intricately intricate hair curlers that have begun to disappear.

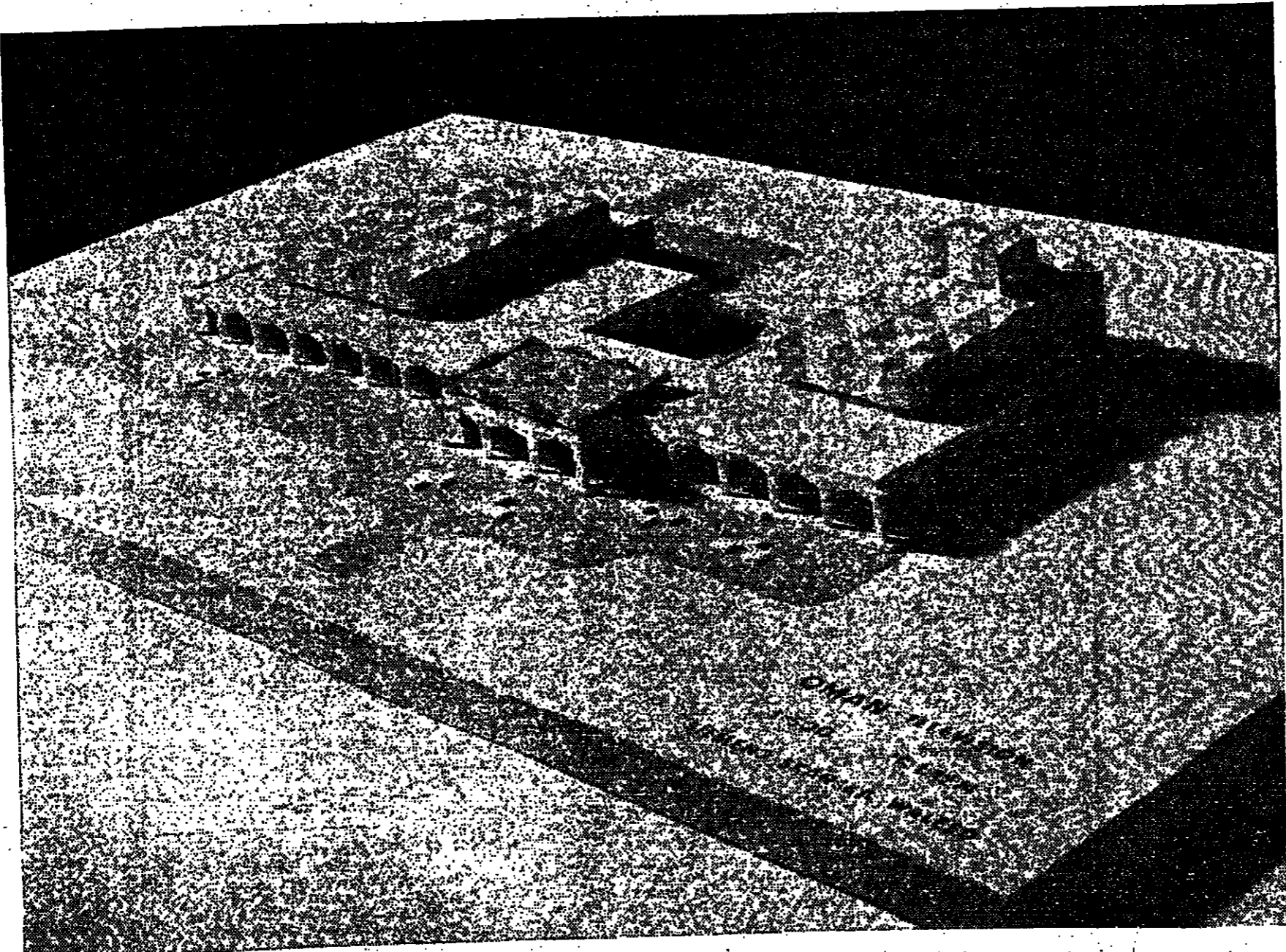
Also, within the past year, the scarcity of Oman's distinctive *khanjars*, the daggers used as the centrepiece of the sultanate's emblem, has doubled the price of fine examples, complete with silver mesh webbing belts. Last year's best ones were selling for £70.

Apart from jewelry and other adornments, like daggers and the decorated rifles which these days are carried in much the same way as an Englishman's umbrella, the craftsmen of Oman have produced exceptional copperware. It is the silver which most collectors seek (and much of the gold jewelry has a basis of silver and has been dipped in gold) but old copper canisters, used to hold make-up and coins and, in rare examples, the pans of public scries, are bought with enthusiasm. Truly fine old copper coffee pots have become rare in the past two years, as have the beaten trays for the cooking and

Typical old Oman jewelry, famed for its silver and workmanship.

Oman's very old past included copper mining and there are also records of the import of precious metals. Today's craftsmen in Niwza can be seen making use of a ready-made supply of copper from the radiators of wrecked vehicles. Both motoring and cars have a short history in Oman, and with enthusiasm. Truly fine as authentically accurate as the oldest, which have been preserved for the sultanate's museum collection. They cost about £16.

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New television service a window on world

by Norma Ashworth
Television comes to Oman today, a precocious new arrival on a scene which until two years ago had no cinema and still has no other form of public entertainment.
Houses in the capital area of Muscat will be able to receive the full-colour images of Sultan Qaboos's fourth National Day celebrations, and neighbouring countries in the Gulf will have to accept that Oman has taken yet another short-cut in learning the ways of the rest of the world. Even a year ago it was not considered that Oman could add television to an already impressive list of achievements, but the Sultan announced in December that he was inviting tenders for the contract and would expect the service to be ready before the end of the year.
Competition for that contract was both keen and anxious when it was realized that, from scratch, the service would have to be completed in nine months, a significant gestation period for a true newborn. The time usually taken to set up a fully-operative colour television service is nearer three years and Oman, with its minimal facilities, would have no advantages of either experienced engineers or trial test sites.
Five firms competed for the contract, which was awarded to Siemens AG of West Germany to set up the initial service in the capital area. Philips NV, of The Netherlands, which had done a survey in 1972 of the possibilities of television in the sultanate and were strong contenders for hand-

ling the complete coverage, were given the contract for Dhoofar. This service, which will be centred on Salalah, is due for completion exactly one year from today.
Wider coverage beyond the capital and Dhoofar has not so far been considered. Until there are functioning electricity services and before the more essential provisions of roads and houses can raise the basic standards of living of the people in the interior, television will remain the dazzling toy of only about 2,000 people. Television receiving sets have been in the Muscat and Salalah shops for more than two years and a large number of inhabitants of the coast have had their aerials up for quite a long time. According to reports, when conditions are favourable (unaccustomed humidity is one belying factor), viewers from Iran and Pakistan come through, complete with sound.
The cost of Muscat region service is about £5,625,000, representing the value of essential equipment. The Dhoofar operation will be more costly (at £8,038,879) but has been eased by an offer from Philips to make a gift of equipment valued at £16,000. It has also promised the services free for one year of an engineer who will work at Salalah and help with the training of technicians.
There was much conjecture over the system which Oman would adopt before the announcement that the contract had been given to Siemens and the German-British system PAL would be used. The Gulf States conference in February last year had debated the merits of PAL, SECAM and NTSC and favoured PAL for technical and climatic reasons.
The Ministry of Information and Tourism will have sole authority for the service but the possibility for later commercial participation has not been ruled out. Transmission time is likely to be up to 30 hours a week, including possibly six hours each Friday, the Islamic day of rest and religious observance. Documentary and feature films from other Arabic-speaking countries will make up a large part of the programmes, apart from the live outside broadcasts and news-reading from the studios. There is as yet little enthusiasm for including foreign feature films.
The viewing public will well feel differently about the importance of the service when only three public cinemas keeps growing week by week, whether the film has changed or not. Before the opening of Oman's first cinema in Muscat two years ago, only private concerns had the opportunity of sharing a distribution circuit of movie films. One of these, the only oil company operating in the sultanate, includes open-air screening for their expatriate junior staff in their sports areas on the hills above the oil camp at Mina al Fahal. It is not uncommon for thousands of passengers to arrive several hours before dark to get places outside the fence so that they can watch the film.
At the new cinemas, it did not take long for a black market in tickets to flourish. People travelling

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CORRESPONDENTS THROUGHOUT

No entry for curious tourists...

The oil crisis has focused the world's attention on the Arab nations that store petroleum wealth. Suspicion and envy are the principal emotions their riches inspire. It is an atmosphere likely to obscure the fact that the countries—states, emirates and a sultanate on the Arabian Gulf—are diverse people, of vastly differing fortunes and ambitions.
The Sultanate of Oman is the least known of all, having been cloistered for centuries by the heavily guarded influence of the western world. To its richer neighbours, Oman is a backward newcomer to the twentieth century, almost the last vestige of a primitive and ancient need of modernization.
To the foreigner, the same qualities and drawbacks give it a charm unmatched elsewhere in the Middle East. Any visitor of tourist brochures would find in it the realization of all the overworked terms used to describe other so-called unspoilt and mysterious countries.
So far, no such document as a tourist brochure exists for Oman. It is a country entirely without tourists, where the only visitors are sponsored and all the resident foreigners are permitted to live there because of their work. The expatriate community can be numbered in several thousands, all of them with controlled conditions of work and residence permits and only short-term visas.
Nobody "drops in" on Oman and is given permission to stay. There is a complicated system of applying for no-objection certificates, either through Oman's embassies abroad or by relatives living in Oman. Without that certificate, there is little chance of being allowed to remain longer than it takes to catch the next flight out.
The reasons for such strict control are clear. There are few facilities for travellers and only three hotels and two guest houses in the country. A system of roads is growing but beyond the more settled areas of the coast travel is difficult and shelter scarce.

Also, Oman has had a turbulent history and a long period of political instability. The need for surveillance with reference to unwelcome infiltration is likely to continue while the rebel warfare in Dhufar attracts outside interest and occasional interference.
Nevertheless, the Government is alert to the possibilities of tourism and has sought the advice of planners and developers from Europe in working out a scheme for the future. Nobody questions the incomparable charm of the country with its towering mountains, desert scenery and villages watered by the intricate and ancient systems of irrigation.
Near neighbours in the flat, sandy areas of places like Dubai, Qatar and Bahrain, for all their advancement have a distinct sense of envy when contemplating the mysterious grandeur of Oman. The early arrival of invaders and settlers (Persians and Portuguese, in particular) is well matched to the natural beauty of the mountain landscape and is in a good state of preservation.
Oman's only hotel of international standard, the Al Falaj, is being extended by the addition of a tower block of nine storeys (Oman's tallest building) and by the early part of 1975 will have 158 bedrooms ready.
The Gulf Hotel at Qurum, roughly equidistant from the capital and Seeb, the international airport, is due for completion by the middle of next year. The International Hotel at Qurum, the largest hotel project (at a cost of \$15m) which was expected to open next year but now has a 1976 completion date.
These three hotels offering luxurious accommodation will open the door to tourists from all over the world. The design plan in all of them shows a far higher number of single rooms than is usual in resort hotels. It was considered essential to give priority to short-visit businessmen and government officials and to make it possible for changeover in airline crews. At present no major airlines can make Muscat a stopover without facilities for looking after large numbers of transit passengers or crews.
With a high standard of assured comfort, the aimless tourist is unlikely to consider including Oman, at least for some years to come. When the basic facilities are provided, it is the traveller who has special interests who will be enthusiastic to see Oman—the bird-watcher, the geologist, the botanist and the archaeologist.
In the Ministry of Information and Tourism, the policy of edging slowly towards inviting the tourists in is thought to be prudent. However valuable a source

of income foreign currency may prove, the depredations of large numbers of travellers in largely unprotected archaeological sites and un-restored ancient buildings could be disastrous. Besides, there is scant provision so far for souvenirs of genuine Oman origin or the entertainment of tourists.
There are plans to develop a national park area, where the few rare specimens of Oman wildlife and vegetation can be both protected and exhibited. One of the newest advisory departments created by the Government is that for the preservation and development of the rural environment. The time will come when the tourists will be welcome. Meanwhile, protecting the country's unspoilt image is of greater importance.
... but some did get in
It is said that a lone tourist visited Muscat recently, and there are rumours that unscrupulous travel agents have sold tickets in Europe and issued no warnings that they will entitle one to visit Seeb international airport and not a step further.
The counter staff at airports in the countries which have had to take the disappointed travellers back to places such as Bahrain, Beirut and Dubai—now ask to see visas for Oman. Travellers without visas, who are expecting to have their no-objection certificates waiting for them in Muscat (which is the usual procedure), have had to produce evidence that if they are not allowed in, they will be able to pay for a ticket to somewhere else—anywhere else.
Eighteen months ago, a privately organized package deal was turned up in Muscat after negotiations had been carried out for several weeks in Dubai. The party of 20, all women and mostly American, the wives of businessmen working in Dubai, spent three days at the Al Falaj Hotel and hired taxis for their sightseeing—a combination of expenses which prompted the comment from one that she had just travelled to London and back for not much more.
The latest group of sightseers to have the rare opportunity of spending two hours in the confines of the airport were Lockheed and Rolls-Royce technicians who travelled with the L-1011 TriStar on its Gulf tour after the Farnborough Air Show. They surrendered their passports to the airport police and were taken by Government bus on a tour of the capital.
The saddest tourists who have visited Oman in recent years have been innocent Muslims making the journey from Pakistan to Mecca. The word has not yet spread far enough to warn the next batch of pilgrims that the dhow trip for which they have paid a great sum will end on Oman's southern coastline. Each year, some are found wandering in some distress, having been assured when they were put ashore that Mecca was just over the next ridge of hills.
N.A.

Alas! poor oryx... where be your gambols now?

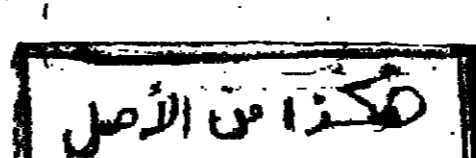
by Julian Paxton
The desert of south Oman is the only part of the Arabian Peninsula where the oryx (Oryx leucorox) still survives in its natural environment; but in the past 10 years they have been driven into remote and inaccessible areas unexplored by man. Fortunately this rare species of antelope has been saved from extinction and is now bred in captivity, not only in Qatar, where they once roamed wild, but also in the United States in the not dissimilar conditions and surroundings of Arizona.
In these private collections, where the oryx are well cared for and fed on lucerne and barley, as well as being supplied with salt, they can be observed at close quarters and much interesting information has been collected about their habits and way of life.
The herd in Qatar now numbers 30 or more animals bred from a nucleus of the oryx captured in the Empty Quarter in 1964. In the desert the oryx have been sighted only individually or in small groups, and it is probable that they do not produce so many young in the desert as they do in captivity, where their breeding has been remarkably successful. The oryx in captivity is quiet and docile, has little or no fear of man and can be approached without difficulty.

In the Arabic language, oryx are described as wild cattle and indeed they are sturdy, cloven-footed beasts, with none of the delicate points of their dainty cousin the gazelle and without the majesty and elegance of the horse. At birth they are sandy brown and only on reaching maturity do they acquire their white coat, distinctive black head markings and scythe-like horns, tapering to needle points and eventually growing to about 2ft in length. In profile the oryx is seen in silhouette to appear to have only one horn which has caused speculation about this breed being the unicorn of myth and legend.
The male oryx uses his horns for butting and fighting during the mating season. When an animal is killed, the Bedu will use the horns to make primitive or cross-piece for camel saddles. Although known elsewhere in the Arab world as *maha* or *wudhaihi*, in Oman the oryx is invariably referred to as *bin suala*, a nickname apparently derived from the bulk and conservatism of the species. In the harsh and hostile environment of the desert, he fights a continual battle for survival and is easily tempted with money or rifles and ammunition to betray the presence of the oryx.
It is not fair to blame the hunter alone for the gradual disappearance of the species. The pattern of life in Arabia has changed dramatically in

the past few years, not only for the people but for the wild life as well, because of the development and progress made possible by the income from oil. Oman is rapidly catching up with the other Gulf states in material terms and it is no longer the haven that it was; both man and beast are caught up in the evolution of the twentieth century.
In the early days of oil exploration, which for Oman was only 20 years ago, traces and sightings of oryx were noted in areas that are now dotted with drilling locations, traversed by graded roads and frequently visited by man. These intrusions have disturbed the pattern of movement for the oryx and have probably driven them to areas where food is sparse and starvation a possibility.
The cool season in South Oman brings the desert to life and the dry, waterless *harasis* is covered in vegetation. The Bedu still bring their camels to graze; but many of them now have their own vehicles or work for the oil company and no longer hunt the game which used to abound there.
Help with the pictorial preparation of this Special Report was given by the Government of Oman, John Lawrence, Michael Rice and Company, Henk Snoek, Barbara Wace.

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Oman

سلطنة عمان



a Special Report to mark National Day and the thirty-fourth birthday of Sultan Qaboos

New wealth brings country out of Middle Ages

The Sultanate of Oman has stepped almost overnight out of the medieval world into the twentieth century. Peter Hopkirk explains how this has been achieved after the discovery of oil and the accession of a young and energetic ruler

few gems of ancient Oman architecture will be all that is left of the old order.

Four years ago Oman had no newspapers or radio station, only three schools for its 600,000 or so inhabitants, and five miles of surfaced road. There was one doctor for every 18,000 people. To get their children educated parents had to smuggle them out of the country.

Every night at sunset the great gates of Muscat were closed, and anyone who left his home after dark had to carry a lantern. Smoking was outlawed, as were sunglasses.

The building of new houses was rigidly controlled, and the repair of old ones was forbidden, on the argument that if they crumbled it must be God's will. The beautiful but bulky Maria Theresa silver dollar was still in circulation. Until 1971 Oman had never had a budget.

Despite the discovery of oil in 1964 the Omanis continued to be among the world's poorest people, scratching a living from dates and limes and from the sea. To ensure that his people obeyed his edicts, the old Sultan used to spy on them with binoculars through two peep-holes specially drilled in the palace wall.

Today Oman has more than a hundred schools, a dozen banks, modern hospitals and health centres, low-cost housing schemes, air-conditioned office blocks, a new museum, new sports stadium, experimental farms, and now even colour television. Its air force is to be equipped with Britain's latest strike aircraft, the

Jaguar, as well as the Rapier air defence system. For apart from the war in the south, Oman guards the entrance to the Gulf.

Air-conditioned limousines race along its fine new highways, while the number of vehicles in the country has soared from a mere 800 in 1970 to 15,000 today. An endless flow of businessmen and bankers, technicians and salesmen, come and go through Oman's international airport, now a year old and handling 10,000 passengers a month.

Such is the interest in this fast-moving country that foreign visitors from a score of countries are willing to sleep two or three to a room in Muscat's only two hotels (a third is so open shortly) to gain a two-fold return.

At present almost everything has to be imported, and goods pour into Oman through the fine new deep water harbour, named after the Sultan, at Marrah. Although there is still little industrial activity in Oman, except for the manufacture of the characteristic silver jewelry, this will soon change. A large cement plant, which it is hoped will eventually produce 600,000 tons a year, is scheduled to open in 1976. Such is the demand for cement that it has even been flown in for use in high priority tasks.

There are also plans to set up smaller factories to produce such things as furniture, floor tiles, soft drinks and canned foods. Promising deposits of copper, moreover, have been

found in northern Oman, and its commercial exploitation appears likely. Prospects for the mining of chromite and manganese also look good.

But oil, which is piped from the edge of the Empty Quarter to the coast, is the miracle worker, bringing in £1.5m a day. It is this that has enabled Oman, in the space of four short years, to leap from the sixteenth century into the twentieth. The successive oil price rises in the past year or so have come as a windfall to Oman, which spends its revenue to the hilt, and does not suffer, like some other Arab oil producers, from a surfeit of money.

Modest by comparison with the revenue of the other Gulf oil states, Oman's income is none the less sufficient to finance all that the sultanate, with its modest population, can take in at present. Like its neighbours in the Gulf, Oman has to rely heavily on mercenary labour to carry through its programme. Indeed, Oman's biggest single problem today is its manpower shortage. This is in spite of the return of many educated Omanis from abroad since the coup, and the arrival of thousands of skilled men and women of Oman descent from Zanzibar, once part of Oman's nineteenth-century empire.

Another problem is that of evolving an efficient structure of government, both central and local. The present system is a mixture of twentieth-century Whitehall and the traditional tribal system of administration. Such inevitable issues as elections, trade unions and women's lib still lie far off. However, other immediate problems have to be faced.

Inflation is one of these. Some visitors claim that Oman is the most expensive country in the world. Another is the drain on the economy of the war against the insurgents in the Dhufar mountains. But despite this, four times more is being spent on development this year than last, and the war is gradually consuming less of the nation's resources as the tide turns in favour of Government forces. In 1973 more was still being spent on defence than development. However, this year the spending pattern has been reversed. Much of the defence spending, moreover, goes towards providing a permanent infrastructure in the war area.

After a century of neglect, decades of work still lie ahead for Oman, particularly in the interior. Although now a member of the United Nations and the Arab League, with embassies in a dozen or more countries, Oman is still a little-known land to the world outside. It is still difficult to visit, for Oman is not yet ready for tourists.

Yet of all the countries in the Gulf region, with the exception of Iran, Oman possesses by far the greatest tourist potential with its beaches and mountains. It also has some magnificent domestic architecture although, in the rush to modernize, much of this is vanishing for ever beneath the grinding bulldozers.

The best examples are being deliberately preserved, but inevitably Muscat and the other Oman towns must lose their enchanting character and end up like everywhere else.

Oman's southern desert still harbours the last of the wild oryx—to some the uni-

corn of legend—and this too will draw tourists if it is successfully preserved. But other countries in the region, like Kenya and Tanzania, also offer the attractions of wildlife. Oman's architecture, however, is unique, and it is this that makes it so different from the rest of the world. A sad little footnote to Oman's great leap forward is the fact that shortly before his downfall the old Sultan had made up his mind to introduce some changes.

A succession of officials from Whitehall had visited him at Salalah, begging him to do something. But the Sultan, who understood the British better than most, would do nothing but the subject around to cricket.

Eventually, however, he gave way. Plans were prepared for a number of projects, including a hospital better than most. But already the writing was on the wall for the old Sultan. After 38 years of rule, he had moved too slowly and too late.

Britain's oldest friend on Arabian peninsula

Temperatures of 120°F have been recorded at midnight in the old walled capital of Muscat, and the first four British Residents appointed there died from the effects of the climate. Their habit of wrapping themselves in wet sheets and sleeping on the residency roof to escape the heat may have had something to do with it, though more likely it was malaria that killed them.

Before the days of air-conditioning the summer heat must have been appalling, with daytime temperatures in the mid-130s. Indeed, a Persian poet wrote: "To the panting sinner Muscat gives a living foretaste of his future destiny."

The traveller Theodore Bent, visiting Muscat in the 1880s, described it as the hottest place on earth. The heat, now made acceptable by air-conditioning, has rendered in the vast rock bowl in which the town stands. This absorbs the sun's energy during the day, breathing it out after dark like a huge night-storage heater.

But Muscat's awesome reputation did nothing to deter a succession of intrepid British officials from following in the footsteps of their dead colleagues. Since the beginning of the nineteenth century an almost unbroken line of British representatives has resided there, culminating in the present—and first—ambassador, Mr Donald Hawley.

Oman, which today celebrates its National Day, is Britain's oldest friend on the Arabian peninsula—a special relationship dating back 175 years to when the first treaty between the two powers was signed.

The result of British fears about Napoleon's intentions towards India, the agreement expressed the hope that the friendship "may remain unshook to the end of time and till the sun and moon have finished in their revolving career". Signed in 1800 by Captain John Malcolm, it also provided for "an Englishman of respectability" to reside permanently in Muscat.

This ancient friendship, apart from occasional interruptions, has continued to this day. The links are not only economic and political but also strongly personal. The present Sultan, Qaboos bin Said, was educated at Sandhurst and served for a time in Germany with the Cameronians. Before this he spent two years living with the family of an English clergyman. For a while he studied local government in Britain.

Today, some 500 British officers and aces are seconded or individually contracted to the Sultan's armed forces. Economic and technical advisers from Britain are also closely involved in Oman's success story.

Trade links which date from the seventeenth century are still close between the

two Governments. Britain sells Oman more goods than any other country, although Japan and others are trying hard to replace it. Until Oman joined the United Nations after the 1970 coup its interests there were looked after by Britain, which also represented Oman on a number of other international bodies.

Visitors from Britain over the years have always taken warmly to the Omanis, if not to their summer climate. James Silk Buckingham who went to Muscat in 1816 found the Omanis "the most gentlemanly of all the Arabs that I have yet ever seen".

Curzon, writing in the 1890s, describes Muscat as "probably one of the most

picturesque places in the world". But he gave warning that "in the heats between June and August the ordinary thermometer bursts. . . . Those graded high enough have placed the solar radiation at 189°F" (presumably in the sun's direct rays).

James Wellsted, who tried to blow out his brains there in a delirium brought on by fever, found the women of Oman "in personal attraction superior to any class which I have seen in Arabia". More recently a senior Arab diplomat called the Omanis "the nicest of the Arabs". Most westerners living in Oman have a great affection for the country and its people.

The name Oman means "peaceful land", which is misleading. In the thirteenth century the great Arab traveller Ibn Battuta found the people "very warlike. . . . There have been periods in Oman's history—even today—when a struggle of some kind was not going on, and most of the towns and villages of the interior are still fortified.

Small as it is, Muscat has always been somewhat larger than life. Theodore Bent relates how, in the 1880s, the Sultan kept in his palace a caged lion. Next to this was an empty cage into which first-time criminals were placed. On a second conviction they were put in with the lion.

When Curzon was there he saw "a miserable woman" in the empty cage who had, he was informed, committed a murder. He was relieved to learn that she would not end up with the lion. But to this day crime is not a serious problem in Oman.

Some early visitors tried even to improve on reality. Abdur Ruzak, writing in May 1442, declared that the heat was "so intense that the sword in its scabbard melted like wax and the gems which adorned the handle of the dagger were reduced to coal".

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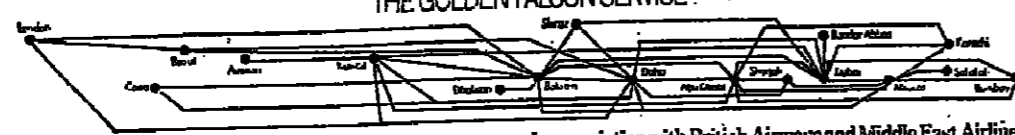
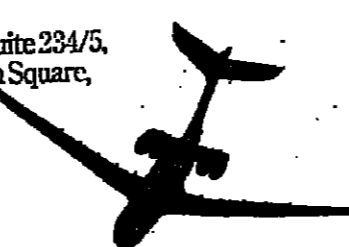
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Ambitious projects mark arrival of heavy industry

by Ralph Izzard

Oman's economic prospects have been transformed by the dramatic increases in world oil prices. Receipts from Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) were about 50m rials in 1972 and just over 60m rials in 1973. The budgeted figure for this year was 212m rials. Total revenues for 1974 were budgeted at 220m rials, emphasizing the importance of oil. Expenditure had been set at 201m rials, leaving a surplus of 19m rials.

Although no figure has been published yet, oil revenues this year are likely to be about 300m rials after an agreement reached on July 17 by which the Government acquired a 90 per cent interest in PDO which produces all the state's output of 295,000 barrels a day. After struggling to make ends meet over the past four years, the Government is now in an enviable position.

An initial par value for the Oman rial was established with the International Monetary Fund on July 4 at 0.416667 rials to the dollar. The Government is now using wider margins but has undertaken not to impose restrictions on current payments or impose multiple exchange rates without the approval of the fund.

Under a recent agreement, Oman is to make a loan of \$30m to the World Bank. The loan will carry an interest rate of 8 per cent and will be repaid in three instalments of \$10m each. Proceeds will be used in the World Bank's general operations.

Whereas there was only one commercial bank in Oman until 1968, there are now 10 and further licences are under consideration. The drafting of banking laws is expected to start shortly and there are plans to have a central bank in operation by the end of next year.

Priority to social service body

When Sultan Qaboos assumed power in 1970, priority was given to creating an administrative and social services organization, industrial development and the war against guerrillas in Dhufar province.

Over the years defence expenditure has been partially obscured for security reasons and also because many of the facilities created primarily for military purposes will serve essential civilian needs in peacetime. Defence expenditure in 1972 was estimated at 27.3m rials and in 1973 at 41.8m rials. This year 58m rials have been budgeted for, but with the country's huge increase in revenues this figure will be greatly exceeded.

Oman is to spend \$83m on new aircraft and missile systems shown at Britain's Farnborough Air Show. Twelve of the new Anglo-French Jaguar fighter-bombers are to be bought at a cost of \$36m. A second order is for a Rapier low-level air defence network, priced by British Aircraft Corporation at \$47m.

Oman also plans to order four more fast patrol boats, mounted with 40mm Bofors guns and capable of 30 knots. Three are already in service along the Oman coast. Three new, small naval bases are also planned.

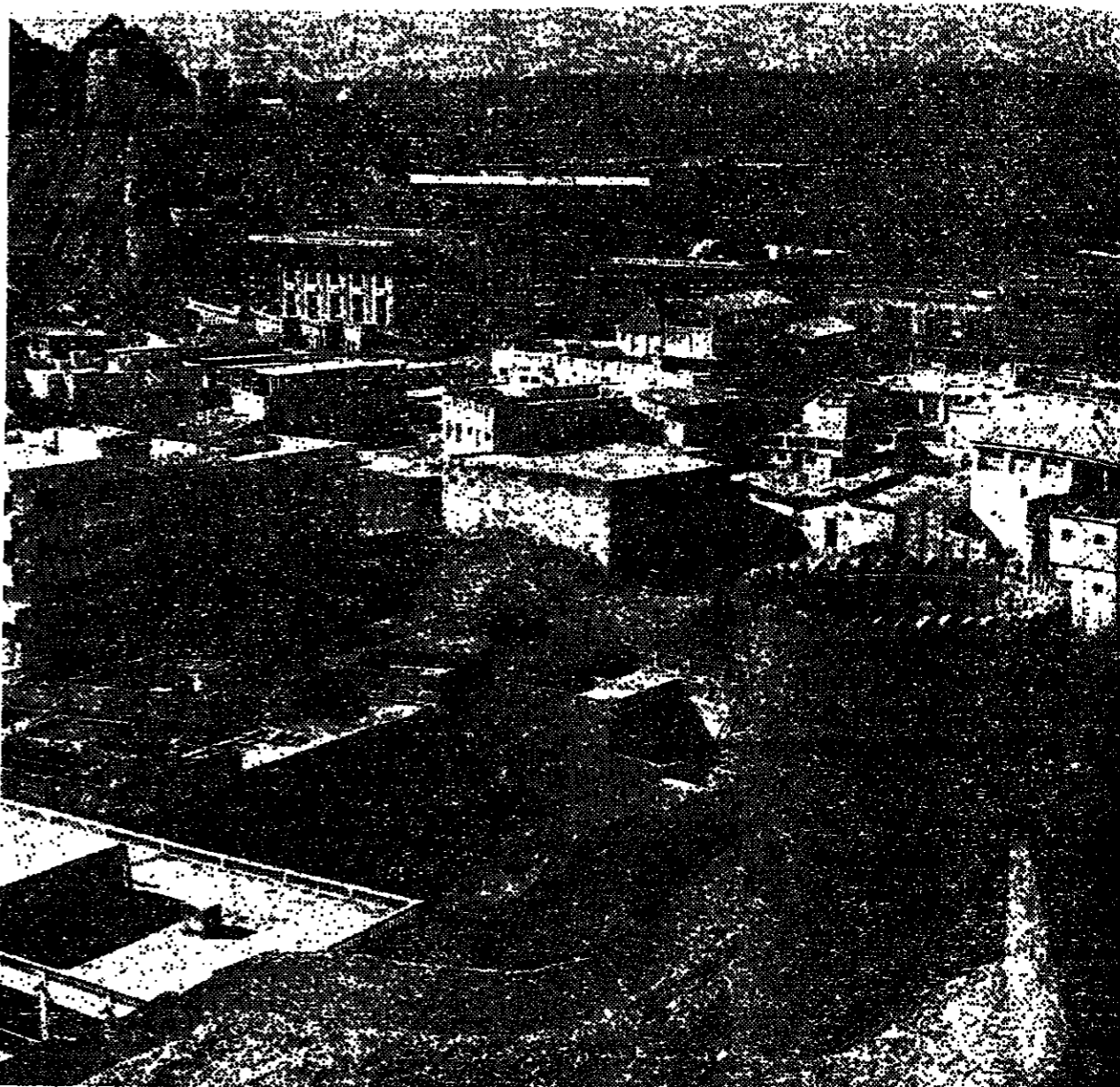
Oman has hitherto had no heavy industry but in September it was announced that French and United States companies will start work early next year on two big projects to exploit Oman's natural gas resources. The two projects together will cost \$500m.

Gazocéan of France is to build a fertilizer plant which will be fed by a 20½-mile pipeline from the gas fields. Planned output is 2,000 tons of ammonia and urea per day. The pipeline will eventually fuel a major new seawater desalination plant and electricity generating station. The American company, Tesoro Petroleum, will build a gas liquefaction plant supplied with associated gas from PDO's existing oil fields, nearly 180 miles south-west of Muscat.

Cement plant under way

Another major industrial project already under way is a cement plant due for completion in 1976. With the Government as the main shareholder, the plant will produce 650,000 tons annually, of which 400,000 tons will be for domestic use. The latest industrial project to be announced is the country's first flour mill. This is to be built near Matrah at a cost of 2,500,000 rials. The Government will have a 20 per cent shareholding and the remaining 80 per cent is to be offered to Oman nationals. The mill will produce 150 tons daily and is expected to be ready by March, 1976.

In 1973 Oman's total imports were valued at 40,700,000 rials, an increase of 117 per cent on the previous year. Principal imports continued to be machinery and parts, cement and other building materials, electrical appliances, foodstuffs and textiles. The Arabian states have



Scaffolding surrounds the Sultan's palace in the shadow of ancient fortifications in the city of Muscat.

replaced the United Kingdom as the principal supplier, although their contribution is largely of reexports. Last year Arabian exports to Oman totalled 10m rials and exports from the United Kingdom 7,700,000 rials. Exports from Oman are, of course, entirely dominated by oil, but last year non-oil exports expanded considerably to 609,000 rials from 28,000 rials in 1972. Principal exports are dry and fresh limes, dry dates, fresh dates and tobacco.

About 80 per cent of Oman's population of about 600,000 remains engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing. Excluding Dhufar, about 90,000 acres are under cultivation out of the country's 120,000 sq miles.

Agriculture is mainly on the narrow fertile Batinah plain, in the oases of the interior and in Dhufar. Dates, limes, lucerne and onions are the main crops on the Batinah and in the interior, while coconuts, bananas, fruits and vegetables are grown in Dhufar. Dhufar is particularly suitable for animal husbandry and special efforts are being made to import heavier beef breeds to cross with local stock.

Research teams have been cooperating for two years with the Ministry of Development in preparing a general survey of crops, soils and water resources to provide a comprehensive agricultural strategy. Two research centres were established in 1971 with soil and water laboratories. Two experimental farms are studying the suitability of crop varieties for local conditions. Sixteen agricultural stations have been set up to provide technical aid to farmers and sell fertilizers and seeds at low cost.

Water is less of a problem in Dhufar for the province receives the extremity of the Indian Ocean summer monsoon rains. But urgent research is required further north. Rainfall is unpredictable; very little fell last year.

When it comes it can be

very heavy but it falls mainly in the mountains with about 90 per cent running straight off to the sea. Only about 10 per cent is left to seep down to the water table beneath the gravel forming the plain.

An area of 17,000 sq kilometres surrounding and north of Muscat is now being researched by Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners working with Geoprosco International, a drilling company based near Leamington Spa, in order to determine what amount of water lies underground, what can be safely drawn off and then to what use it can be economically allocated. The provision of sufficient water to the rapidly growing urban districts of Muscat and Matrah is one pressing need.

When the survey is finished an attempt will be made to manipulate the floodwaters so that they can be dispersed over a far wider area and thus augment underground supplies. It is not the sort of country where large dam schemes can be usefully applied.

A survey of fish resources along Oman's 1,000 miles of coastline, prepared for the Ministry of Development by a consortium of three American companies, has just been completed after a two-year study and is most encouraging.

First results can already be seen at Suhar, in the extreme north, where an ice factory and cold store for the handling and processing of fish began operations this year and has opened up a market for dried and salted fish for which the demand throughout the country vastly exceeds the supply. Under expert direction, the fish catch off Suhar has increased tenfold.

The Government has recently established a Department for Fishery to promote

development of the fish industry off Dhufar water where surveys have shown abundant and constant supplies. An ice factory, cold storage facilities and marine workshop to service fishing vessels are now under construction at Salalah. Sardines are also plentiful further north off the ancient port of Sur where a project study is to be made by a team from the National Industrial Development Corporation of Delhi, with Indian Government support. Results of the survey, carried out in Darbat, a modern fisheries research vessel bought by the Oman Government early in 1973, suggest that lobsters and edible mussels may exist in sufficient quantities to justify commercial exploitation. The report also suggests the collection of seaweeds for food and medicinal preparations as in Japan, and the production of fish meal for stock feed.

Almost immediately the fell into arrears, and the Indian Government too, when payment for this annuity—known as the Camille Award—passed to Britain being finally discontinued in 1956.

From the time of its partition, however, the empire began to sink, the result of a sharp downturn in trade. One reason for this was the invention of the steamship which supplanted much of the dhows trade on which Oman's maritime power depended. Another reason was the opening in 1869 of the Suez Canal. By the start of the First World War, moreover, Oman's profitable arms trade had been stamped out by the British, who many years earlier had brought about the end of the even more profitable slave traffic.

Oman thus went into a decline which was reversed only after the coup in 1970 when a new era in its history began.

Theresa dollars.

Oman of 40,000 Maria

Theresa dollars.

Oman of 40,000 Maria

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Britain's oldest friend on peninsula



Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who is 34 today, has close associations with Britain, as cadet at Sandhurst and officer in Germany.

continued from page 1

By the beginning of the nineteenth century, when Britain's first treaty was signed with Oman, the sultanate had become a considerable power in its own right. Its maritime empire embraced Zanzibar, 1,000 miles of the east African coastline and parts of southern Persia and Baluchistan. The empire reached its zenith during the rule of the great Sayyid bin Sultan (1791-1856), when its dhows sailed as far as America.

On his death the empire was divided between his eldest and his fourth sons, the east African territory going to Majid and Oman itself to Thuwaini. A dispute which arose between them over revenue was referred to the Government of India for arbitration. Lord Curzon, then Governor-General, ruled that Zanzibar should make an annual payment to Oman of 40,000 Maria Theresa dollars.

When it comes it can be

Oman of 40,000 Maria

Theresa dollars.

Oman of 40,000 Maria

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Oman of 40,000 Maria

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Oman of 40,000 Maria

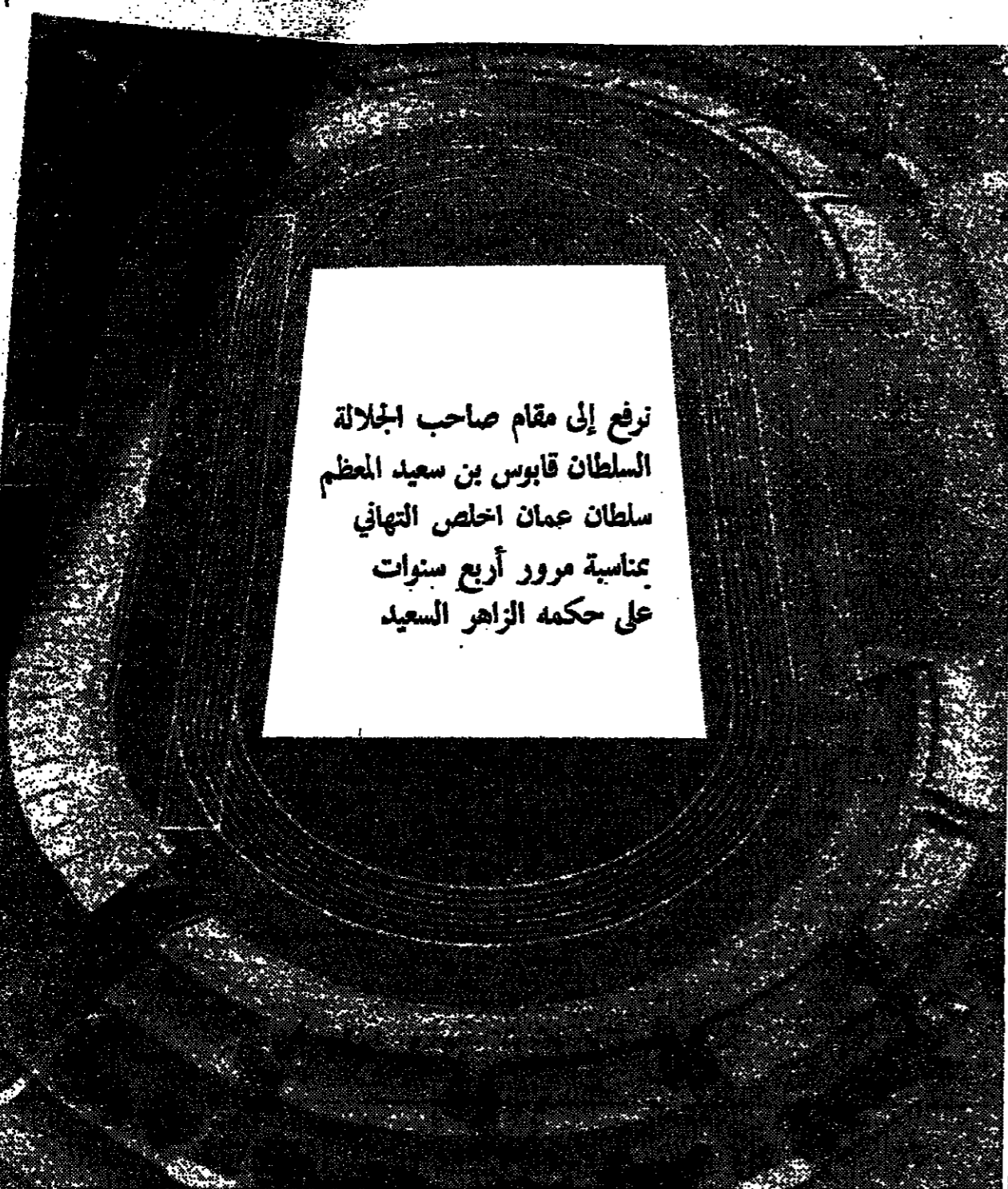
Theresa dollars.

Oman of 40,000 Maria

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Oman of 40,000 Maria

Theresa dollars.



نرفع إلى مقام صاحب الجلالة
السلطان قابوس بن سعيد المعظم
سلطان عمان اخلص التهنائي
بمناسبة مرور أربع سنوات
على حكمه الزاهر السعيد

قامت شركة كوستين ببناء المدينة الرياضية في الوطيه وهي مركز إقامة احتفالات العيد الوطني لعمان ،
وبناء مدرسة البنين في غلا ، وبناء مقر إقامة الضباط الالمانيين المتزوجين في ٢ مناطق من عمان .

Builders of the Police Sports Stadium at Watayah, centre of the Oman National Day celebrations; the Boys School at Al Ghailah; and Oman Officers' Married Quarters at six centres in Oman. Consultant architects for the Watayah Stadium: Brashier Lancaster Associates.



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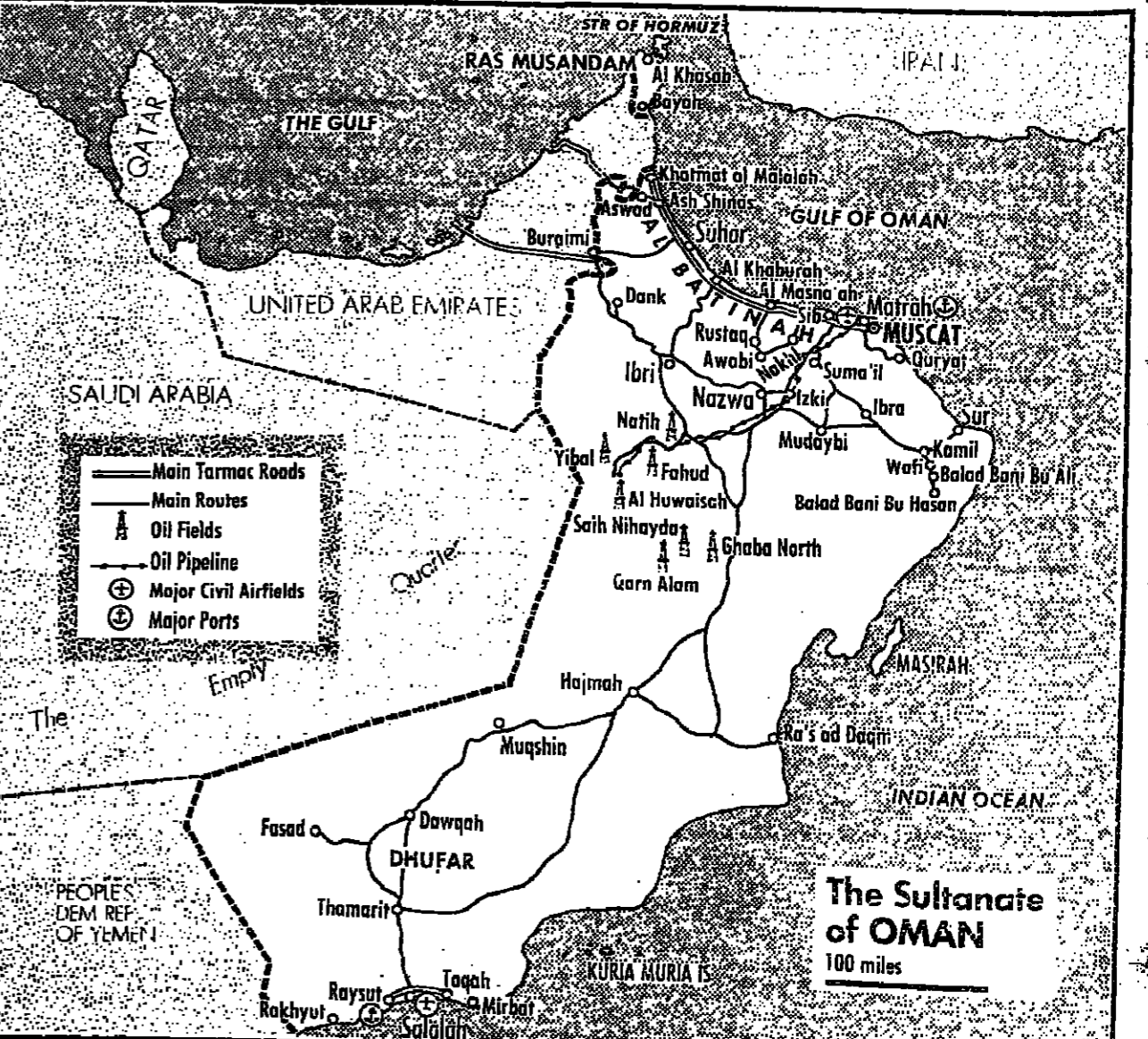
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The Sultanate of OMAN
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